

10¢



JUNE

LIGHTNING

COMICS



MEET
LIGHTNING'S
NEW ALLY,
THE
LIGHTNING GIRL!
•
ALSO
A NEW FEATURE
THE
SWORD



WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM

Lash LIGHTNING

WITH THE LIFE-BLOOD OF VALIANT AMERICANS THE STORY OF JAP TREACHERY HAS BEEN WRITTEN, BUT FEW KNOW THIS INSIDE STORY OF COURAGE AND DARING THAT TRANSPIRED AT DUTCH HARBOR, ALASKA.

Introducing
A NEW AND
SENSATIONAL
CHARACTER IN

"The
Teacher and
the Lesson
of Doom"

WHO
IS
THIS
GIRL?

DUTCH HARBOR, ALASKA.

GOOD NIGHT,
FELLOWS!

GOOD NIGHT, MEN.
I'M GOING ASHORE
WITH MY BROTHER
ADAM.



COL. JOHN AND CAPT. ADAM BLAKE, BROTHERS AND AIDES DE CAMP OF THE LAND AND NAVAL COMMANDING OFFICERS AT DUTCH HARBOR.

ANY DAY NOW, AND THE JAPS WILL LAUNCH THEIR ATTACK!

LET THEM COME. WE'RE READY!

SUDDENLY, AN INTENSE ELECTRIC SHOCK RUNS THRU THE BROTHERS

FINE! FINE! I KNEW THEY'D HAVE TO PASS HERE WHEN GOING ASHORE!

YES MASTER!

THE TEACHER-FREE-LANCE ESPIONAGE EXPERT/ MASTER KILLER FOR THE HIGHEST BIDDER!

TAKE THEM TO MY CLASS-ROOM. THEY HAVE LESSONS TO LEARN!

DEEP INTO THE CAVERNS BENEATH DUTCH HARBOR THE OFFICERS ARE CARRIED....

....TO THE CLASSROOM, SECRET LAIR OF THE TEACHER, WHERE THEY ARE PLACED IN A STATE OF ELECTRO-HYPNOSIS!

CAPTAIN BLAKE WILL REMAIN IN HIS TRANCE. COLONEL BLAKE SHALL SERVE US TOMORROW.

YOU ARE MY PUPIL! KEEP THE COMMANDERS OF THE ARMY AND NAVY FROM THE HARBOR TOMORROW MORNING! AT THE COST OF YOUR LIFE!

I HAVE LEARNED MY LESSON!

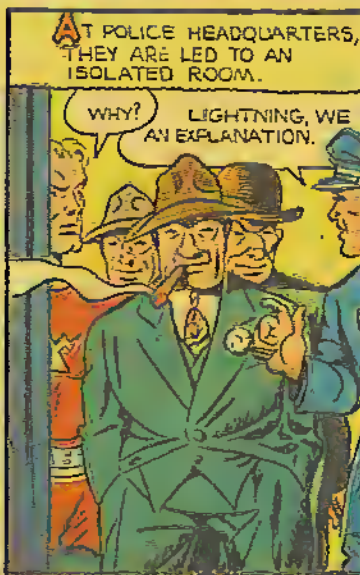
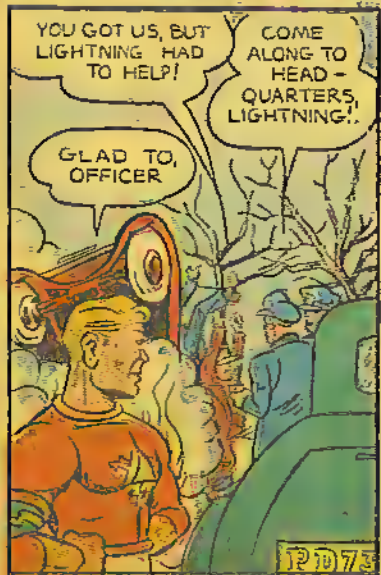
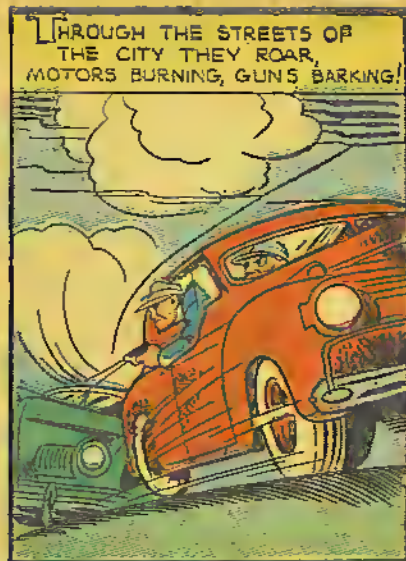
NEXT MORNING COL. BLAKE CALLS ADMIRAL WAHL, COMMANDING OFFICER, AT DUTCH HARBOR.

YES SIR, IMPORTANT SECRET INFORMATION. YOU AND THE STAFF MEET ME AT THE DESERTED FISHING VILLAGE WE MUST NOT BE OVERHEARD.

VERY GOOD, COLONEL BLAKE.

VERY GOOD, SIR!

VERY GOOD INDEED! FOOLS, THEY FALL RIGHT INTO MY TRAP!



WE COULDN'T TRUST THE MAIL OR THE PHONES SINCE WE HAD TO CONTACT YOU IN SECRET. WE KNEW THAT CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES WOULD DRAW YOU OUT, SO WE LOADED OUR GUNS WITH BLANKS AND FAKED A GUN-FIGHT WITH THE POLICE.



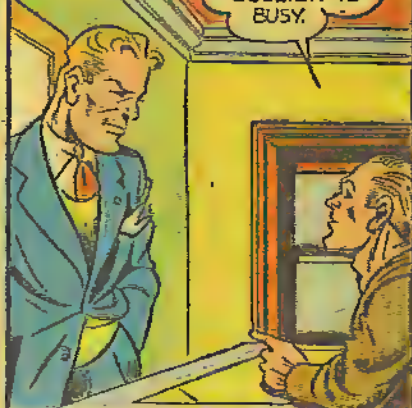
WHEN DO I REPORT, AND HOW?

AT ONCE, AND IN DISGUISE. NO ONE MUST KNOW! JUST HAND THIS CARD TO THE ADMIRAL. DON'T EVEN MENTION YOUR NAME TO HIM!



NEXT DAY, A STALWART FIGURE WALKS INTO THE OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT. ADMIRAL COLLIER IS BUSY.



MEANWHILE, IN THE ADMIRAL'S PRIVATE OFFICE.

I'M SORRY, MISS BLAKE, BUT DUE TO YOUR CONNECTIONS WITH THE INTELLIGENCE DEPT, WE MUST DETAIN YOU FOR FURTHER INVESTIGATION.

BUT YOU ARE WRONG. MY FATHER AND MY UNCLE WERE NO TRAITORS.



I'LL PROVE YOU'RE WRONG. I'LL GO TO DUTCH HARBOR AND FIND THE EVIDENCE!

RETURN TO YOUR HOTEL AND REMAIN THERE! TRY TO ESCAPE, AND YOU'LL BE SHOT ON SIGHT!



IF I COULD GO THERE I'D PROVE THEM INNOCENT.

WON'T YOU COME IN, YOUNG MAN?

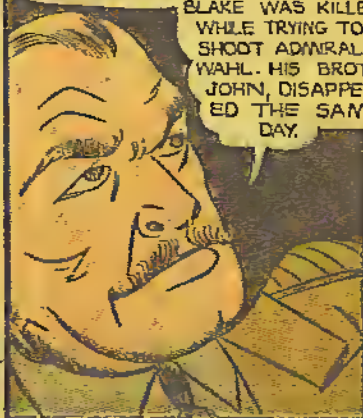


I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO SEE THIS.

I WOULD INDEED! AMERICA CAN USE YOU AT DUTCH HARBOR!



THIS IS A SECRET, BUT TWO OF OUR OFFICERS TURNED TRAITOR. ONE OF THEM LURED OUR STAFF FROM HEADQUARTERS. WHILE AWAY, THE JAPANESE ATTACKED, DAMAGING OUR FLEET. THIS TRAITOR, COL. ADAM BLAKE WAS KILLED WHILE TRYING TO SHOOT ADMIRAL WAHL. HIS BROTHER, JOHN, DISAPPEARED THE SAME DAY.



WE FEEL THAT CAPT BLAKE IS BEHIND A VAST FIFTH COLUMN UP THERE! WE WANT YOU TO BREAK IT UP. THINK YOU CAN?

WHEN DO I START, BOSS?



YOU WILL SAIL ON
THE "KEOKUK"
NEXT WEDNESDAY.

SO YOUR NAVY IS
SENDING A SPECIAL
INVESTIGATOR! I'LL
ARRANGE A WARM
WELCOME FOR HIM!

ISOBEL BLAKE
MIGHT GIVE ME
SOME GOOD
LEADS. I
MIGHT POSE
AS A SPY AND
HELP HER GET
TO DUTCH HARBOR.

GOOD
IDEA!

THE MEETING IN ADMIRAL COLLIER'S
OFFICE IS FAR FROM SECRET. THE
TEACHER MAINTAINS
CONSTANT CONTACT WITH
ALL GOVERNMENT OFFICES.

BACK IN WASHINGTON....

SHH! THE RING AT DUTCH
HARBOR SENT ME TO
HELP YOU! I'VE GOT A
FAKE PASSPORT AND
DISGUISE ALL READY!

GOOD! LET'S
GET GOING!

SHE SEEMED SINCERE ENOUGH
AT THE OFFICE... THIS RUSE
WILL EITHER CLEAR HER OR
CONVICT HER! BUT EITHER WAY
SHE SHOULD BE ABLE TO
LEAD ME TO THE RING!

MISS BLAKE?
ISOBEL
BLAKE?

YES! WHAT
DO YOU
WANT?

WELL, ISOBEL, IN ANOTHER
COUPLE OF HOURS WE'LL
BE THERE!

LOOK!
AMERICAN PLANES
COMING TO CONVOY
US IN!

SUDDENLY, THE "AMERICAN"
PLANES SHOW THEIR
TRUE COLORS!

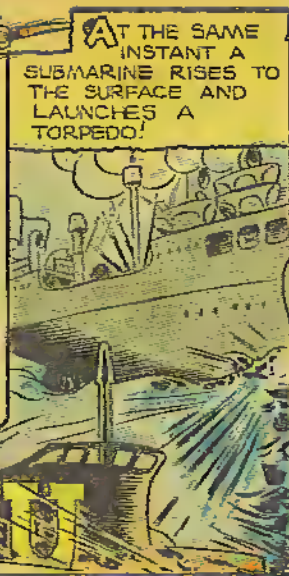
I'LL LET THIS BIG PHONEY
LEAD ME TO HIS BOSS.
I'LL CLEAR DAD AND
UNCLE JOHN IF IT'S THE
LAST THING I DO!

ATTACK! KILL THE
AMERICAN
DOGS!

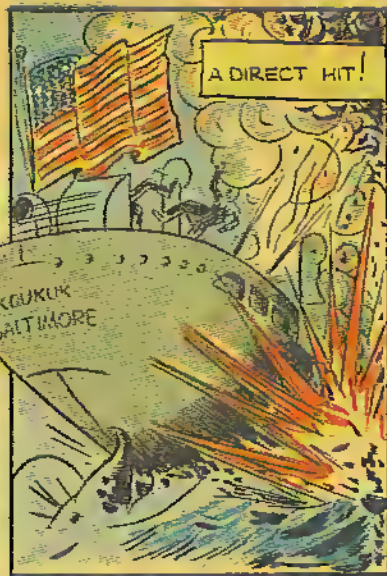
SOME TIME LATER, AS
THE "KEOKUK" DRAWS TO
DUTCH HARBOR



THE SURPRISE ATTACK
LOSES ITS PUNCH
AS MOST OF THE
NEAR-SIGHTED JAP
PILOTS MISS THEIR
TARGET!



AT THE SAME
INSTANT A
SUBMARINE RISES TO
THE SURFACE AND
LAUNCHES A
TORPEDO!



A DIRECT HIT!

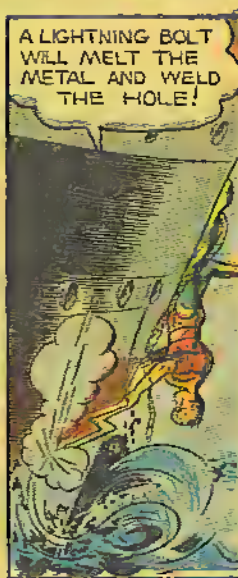


LIGHTNING SHEDS HIS
OUTER GARMENTS,
PREPARING TO ENTER THE
FIGHT!

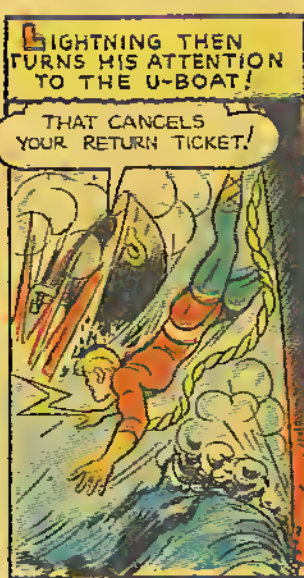
RECKON I'LL
GO TO WORK ON
THOSE PLANES.
WOW! A TORPEDO!



RIGHT NOW,
KEEPING THE
SHIP AFLOAT
IS MORE
IMPORTANT
THAN GETTING
THOSE PLANES!



A LIGHTNING BOLT
WILL MELT THE
METAL AND WELD
THE HOLE!



LIGHTNING THEN
TURNS HIS ATTENTION
TO THE U-BOAT!

THAT CANCELS
YOUR RETURN TICKET!



WHILE LIGHTNING IS OCCUPIED
WITH THE SUB, ISOBEL GOES
INTO ACTION!

I HAVEN'T BEEN
A NAVY KID ALL
MY LIFE FOR
NOTHING!



MOVE OVER, BOYS,
AND LET ME THROUGH!

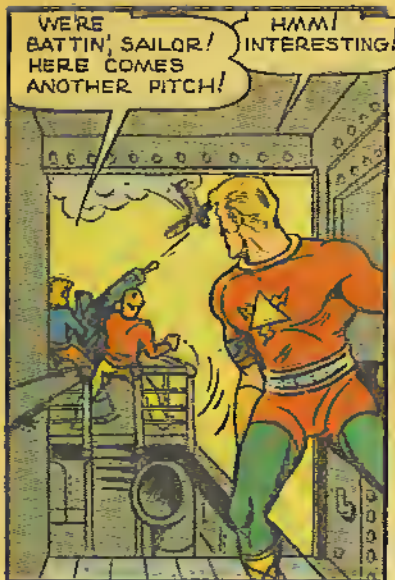
WHAT GOES
ON?

HEY! LADY!
THIS IS SERIOUS
BUSINESS!



IT SURE IS,
SAILOR!
THERE GOES
THE FIRST ONE!

NICE
SHOOTIN'
TOOTS!



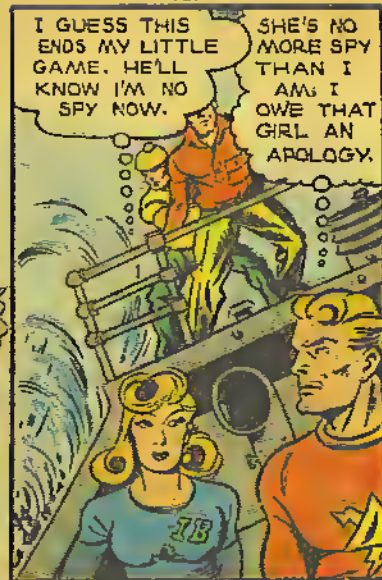
WE'RE BATTIN' SAILOR! HERE COMES ANOTHER PITCH!

HMM! INTERESTING!



WOW! SOME SHOOTING!

I GUESS THAT DID IT BOYS, THEY'RE RUNNING!



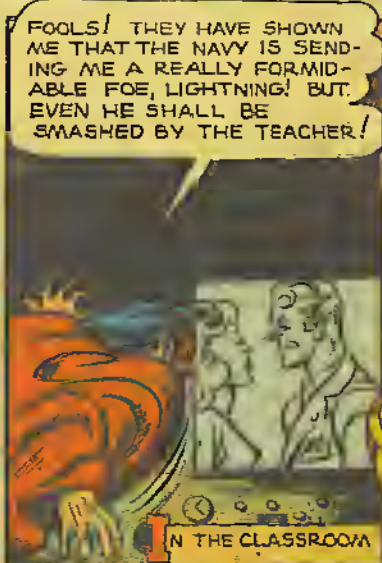
I GUESS THIS ENDS MY LITTLE GAME. HE'LL KNOW I'M NO SPY NOW.

SHE'S NO MORE SPY THAN I AM! I OWE THAT GIRL AN APOLOGY.



SO YOU SEE, I'M LASH LIGHTNING. I'M TRYING TO CLEAN UP THE ALASKAN FIFTH COLUMN FOR THE NAVY.

I'LL DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO HELP YOU.



FOOLS! THEY HAVE SHOWN ME THAT THE NAVY IS SENDING ME A REALLY FORMIDABLE FOE, LIGHTNING! BUT EVEN HE SHALL BE SMASHED BY THE TEACHER!

IN THE CLASSROOM



LIGHTNING SHALL VISIT ME, AND WHEN HE DOES, HE'LL FIND THAT THE TEACHER IS PREPARED FOR HIM..... PREPARED WITH A WEAPON THAT WILL USE LIGHTNING'S OWN POWERS TO DESTROY HIM!



HERE HE COMES!

THE 'KEOKUK' ARRIVES AT DUTCH HARBOR



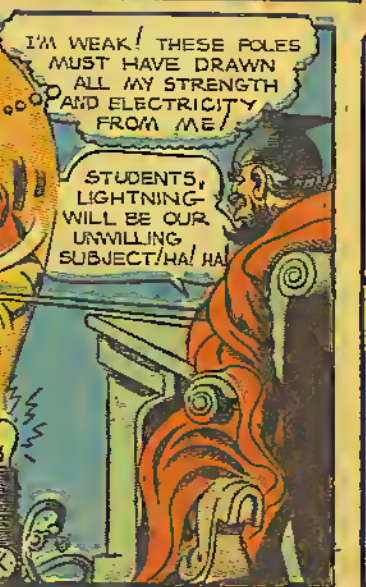
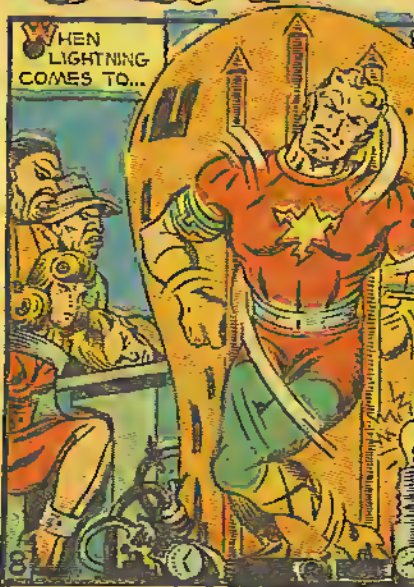
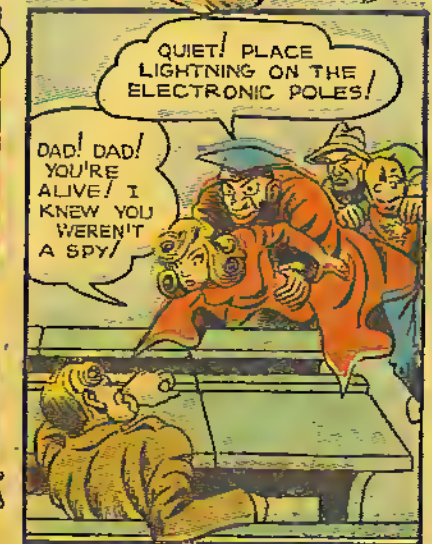
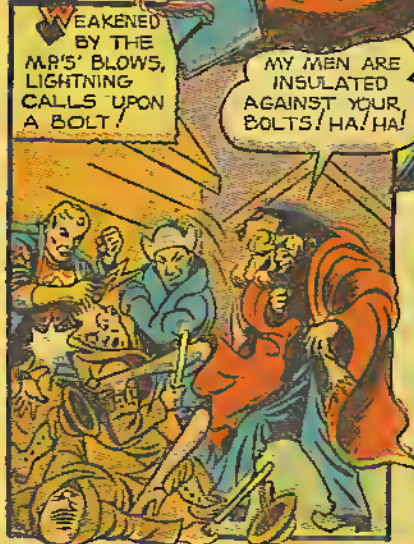
LOOK! IT'S ISOBEL BLAKE, THE DAUGHTER OF THE TRAITOR, CAPTAIN BLAKE!

HEY YOU! YOU SPYING JEZEBEL



COME ON ISOBEL. THIS IS NO PLACE TO MAKE EXPLANATIONS. I'LL CLEAR YOU AT HEADQUARTERS LATER.

LET'S GO! WE'LL LOSE THEM UP THERE!



LESSON NO. TWO! DESTRUCTION OF THE AMERICAN FLEET! THE FLEET SAILS TODAY TO CONTACT A JAPANESE FORMATION, AND INTO THIS TRAP, PLANNED BY THE TEACHER!



LESSON NO. THREE! DESTRUCTION OF THE AMERICAN ARMY AT DUTCH HARBOR, LED BY MYSELF, THE FIFTH COLUMN DESCEND BEHIND OUTNUMBERED AMERICAN TROOPS, WIPING THEM OUT!



LESSON NO. FOUR! PLACING OF BLAME. COMMANDER BLAKE AND HIS DAUGHTER SHALL BE FOUND HERE, AND BE BLAMED FOR IT!



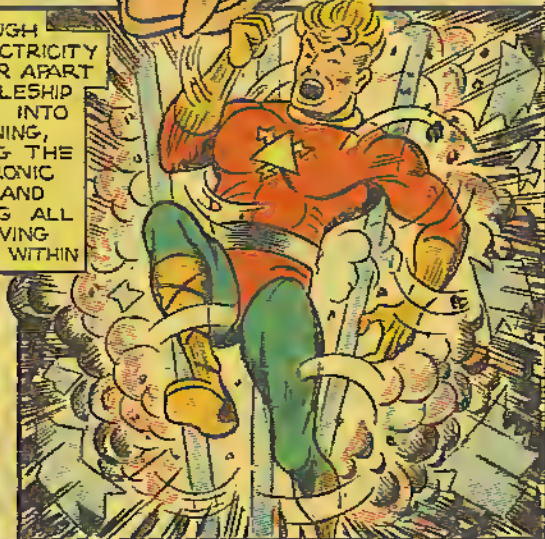
HI! HI!

NOW TO START! THROW THE SWITCH!

NO! NO!



ENOUGH ELECTRICITY TO TEAR APART A BATTLESHIP BLASTS INTO LIGHTNING, MELTING THE ELECTRONIC POLES, AND SEARING ALL THE LIVING TISSUE WITHIN HIM!



IS THIS THE END OF LIGHTNING? HAS THE CAREER OF THE THUNDERBOLT OF JUSTICE COME TO AN UNTIMELY FINISH?



LATER.... AMERICA'S DUTCH HARBOR FLEET SAILS OUT TO CONTACT THE ENEMY....



MEANWHILE THE AMERICAN LAND FORCES AWAIT AN ATTACK FROM THE SEA, BUT ARE UNAWARE OF THE ARMY THAT IS PREPARED TO STRIKE FROM BEHIND!



IN THE CLASSROOM AFTER
THE TEACHER AND HIS MEN
ARE GONE.

IT'S UP TO YOU... GET TO THE NAVY... SEND PLANES... FLEET MUST CHANGE COURSE...

BUT THEY WON'T LISTEN TO ME!
I'LL BE SHOT BEFORE I CAN TALK!

THE MAGNIFICENT STRENGTH OF LIGHTNING HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETELY DESTROYED. WITH THE FATE OF THOUSANDS OF AMERICANS RESTING ON HIM, LIGHTNING FIGHTS SLOWLY AND PAINFULLY BACK TO CONSCIOUSNESS!



HIS BODY WRACKED WITH PAIN, LIGHTNING DRAGS HIMSELF TOWARD ISOBEL.

LIGHTNING! YOU'RE ALIVE! YOU'RE ALIVE!

ISOBEL: I HAVE POWERS BUT NO STRENGTH... YOU HAVE STRENGTH BUT NO POWERS.... IF I COULD GIVE SOME TO YOU.... MAYBE....

COULD YOU?...
WOULD YOU?...
WOULD IT
WORK?

LIGHTNING GROUNDS THE ELECTRIC FORCES IN HIS BODY.

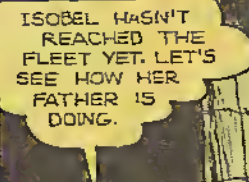
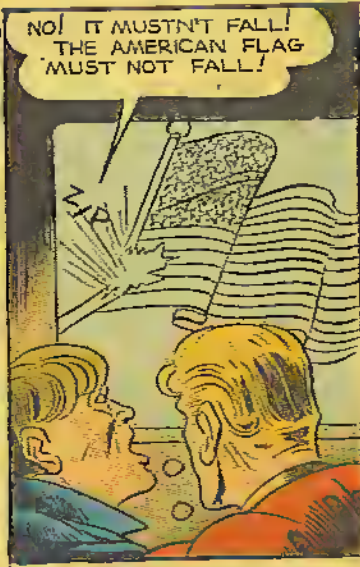
THIS MAY WORK..
BUT IT MAY KILL YOU.
ARE YOU WILLING
TO RISK IT?

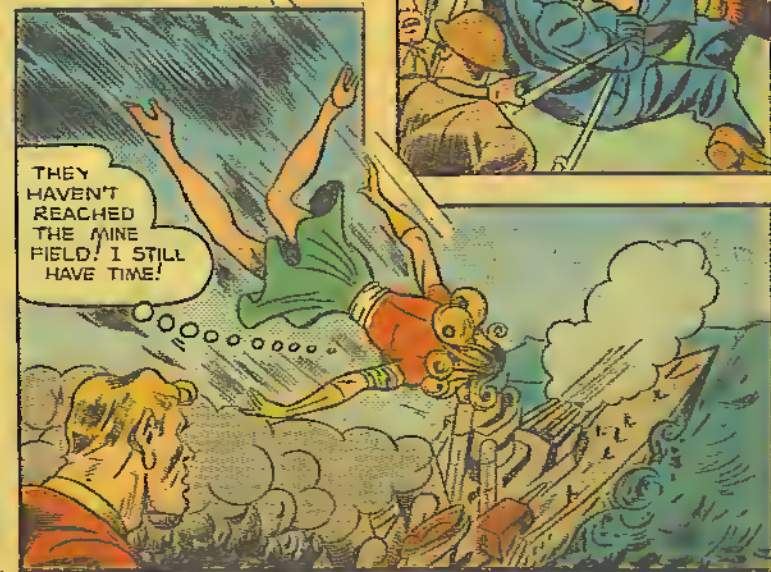
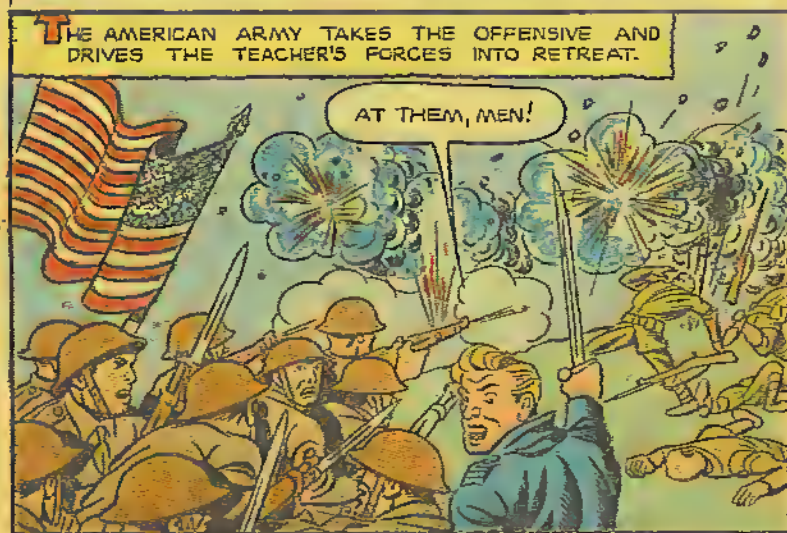
I AM,
LIGHTNING!

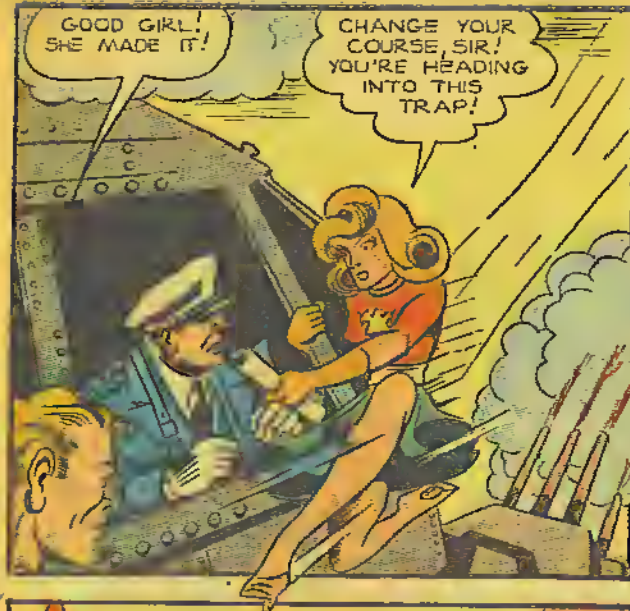
THOUSANDS OF VOLTS BURGE
THROUGH THE BODY OF ISOBEL.

A comic book illustration of a woman with blonde hair, wearing a red robe, surrounded by stars and energy bolts. The woman has a surprised or intense expression. The background is dark with radiating lines and several bright stars. The text at the top reads "THOUSANDS OF VOLTS BURGE THROUGH THE BODY OF ISOBEL."

AND WHEN
THE
LIGHTS AND
THE HEAT
DIE AWAY...
THE
LIGHTNING
GIRL IS
BORN!!

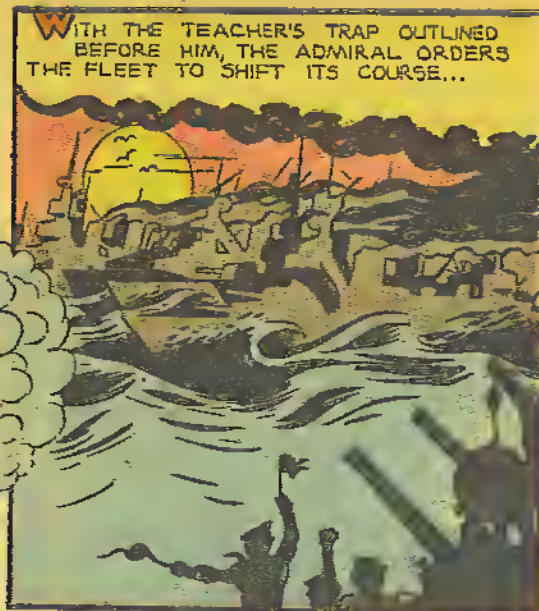




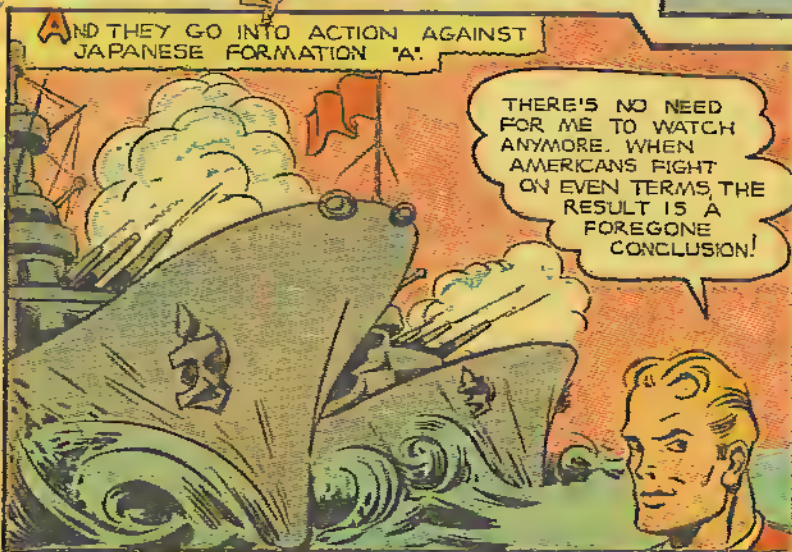


GOOD GIRL!
SHE MADE IT!

CHANGE YOUR
COURSE, SIR!
YOU'RE HEADING
INTO THIS
TRAP!



WITH THE TEACHER'S TRAP OUTLINED
BEFORE HIM, THE ADMIRAL ORDERS
THE FLEET TO SHIFT ITS COURSE...



AND THEY GO INTO ACTION AGAINST
JAPANESE FORMATION "A".

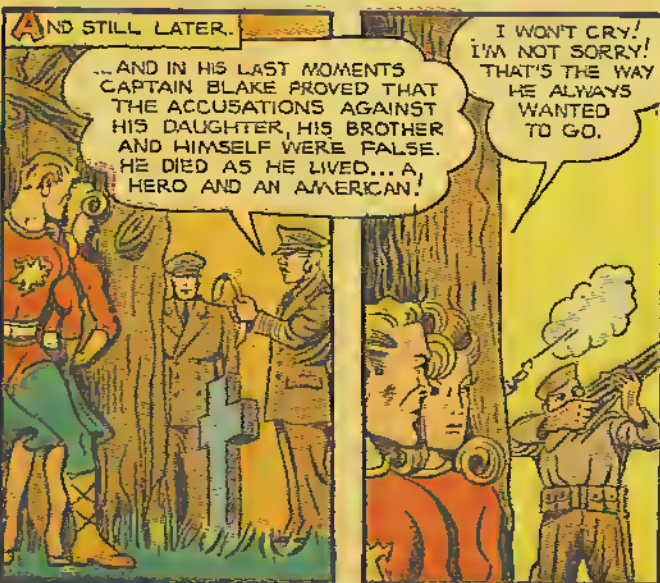
THERE'S NO NEED
FOR ME TO WATCH
ANYMORE. WHEN
AMERICANS FIGHT
ON EVEN TERMS, THE
RESULT IS A
FOREGONE
CONCLUSION!



SOMETIME LATER, THE
LIGHTNING GIRL RETURNS.

WELL! HOW'D
YOU DO!

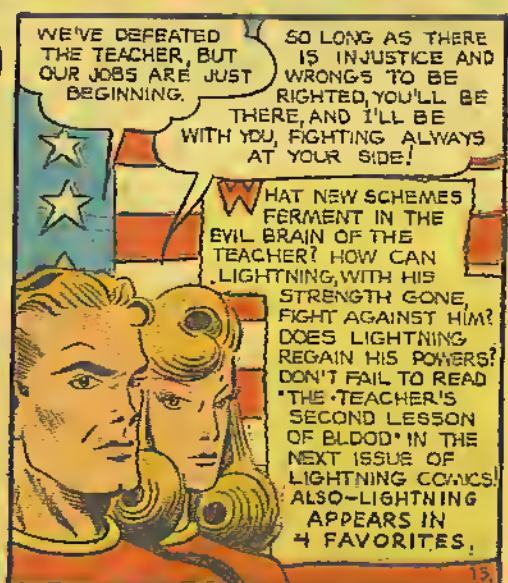
FINE, FELLER,
FINE! BLASTED
THEM ALL
OUT OF THE
OCEAN!



AND STILL LATER...

...AND IN HIS LAST MOMENTS
CAPTAIN BLAKE PROVED THAT
THE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST
HIS DAUGHTER, HIS BROTHER
AND HIMSELF WERE FALSE.
HE DIED AS HE LIVED... A
HERO AND AN AMERICAN!

I WON'T CRY!
I'M NOT SORRY!
THAT'S THE WAY
HE ALWAYS
WANTED
TO GO.



WE'VE DEFEATED
THE TEACHER, BUT
OUR JOBS ARE JUST
BEGINNING.

SO LONG AS THERE
IS INJUSTICE AND
WRONGS TO BE
RIGHTED, YOU'LL BE
THERE, AND I'LL BE
WITH YOU, FIGHTING ALWAYS
AT YOUR SIDE!

WHAT NEW SCHEMES
FERMENT IN THE
EVIL BRAIN OF THE
TEACHER! HOW CAN
LIGHTNING, WITH HIS
STRENGTH GONE
FIGHT AGAINST HIM?
DOES LIGHTNING
REGAIN HIS POWERS?
DON'T FAIL TO READ
"THE TEACHER'S
SECOND LESSON
OF BLOOD" IN THE
NEXT ISSUE OF
LIGHTNING COMICS!
ALSO-LIGHTNING
APPEARS IN
4 FAVORITES.

HAP HAZARD

MAD DOG KILLERS ON TRIAL TODAY



BULLETIN!! EXTRA!!

HOW COULD HAP HAZARD PREVENT THE ESCAPE OF A TRIO OF KILLERS, WHEN HE HIMSELF WAS LOCKED IN A MURDERER'S CELL?... BUT THE COPY BOY OF THE DAILY STAR DISCOVERS THAT CAMERA BULBS MAKE GOOD STOP LIGHTS, IN ---

A PACK OF CIGARETTES? I DIDN'T KNOW YOU SMOKED, HAP!

I DON'T! THESE ARE FOR "PIX" PILSON, MY PAL-- WE'RE GOING TO THE TRIAL OF THOSE MAD DOG KILLERS. SO LONG! GOTTA RUSH!

NOW TO MEET "PIX" AND GIVE HIM THESE-- WHOOPS!!

FOR PITY SAKES! GROWN-UPS ARE SO UNPREDICTABLE!

CHEE, THANKS, BUD! JUST WHAT I WANTED! A PACK 'A' BUTTS! I WON'T FORGET DIS!

OH, THAT'S OKAY! ANY TIME!

WOW! THOSE ARE THE MAD DOG KILLERS ON THE WAY TO THE TRIAL!



HELLO, PIX!
I GOT YOUR
SMOKES
FOR YOU,
BUT...

DON'T BOTHER
TO EXPLAIN, I
KNEW I COULDN'T
TRUST YOU TO
GET 'EM FOR
ME! HERE--HOLD
THIS STUFF! I'LL
GET MY OWN
CIGARETTES!

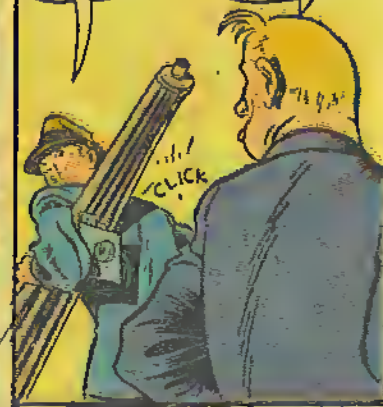


GOOD GRAVY!! TRIPOD,
CAMERA, FLASH BULBS,
PLATES-- WHERE'LL I
PUT 'EM ALL??



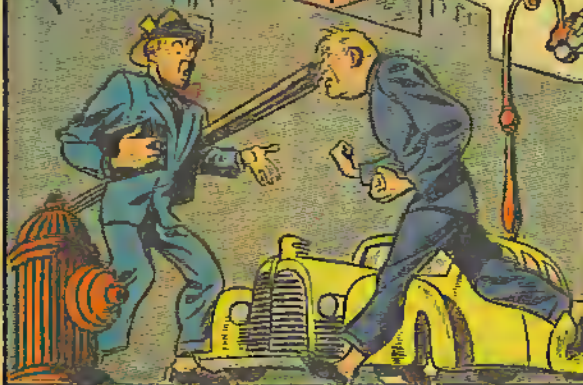
WELL, THAT'S
BETTER!
NOW I--
OOPS!! I
MUST'VE
PRESSED
THE WRONG
THING
HERE!

SAY, YOU!
WHAT'S
THE IDEA?
I DON'T
WANT NO
PICTURE
OF ME IN
THE
PAPER!



HUH?
BUT,
MISTER--
I DIDN'T--

DON'T HAND ME NO
OIL! I HEARD THE
CAMERA CLICK! I'LL
SMASH THAT CAMERA
TO PIECES!



HOLY HATPINS!!
I BETTER GET
PIX OUT HERE!
OH--PIXIE!!
YOO-HOO!!!



WELL, FOR
HEAVEN'S
SAKE! THE
GUY MUST
HAVE
FAINTED!

DID YOU
CALL ME,
HAP?
WHATTA
YA
WANT??



WHO'S
YOUR
HOMELY
FRIEND?

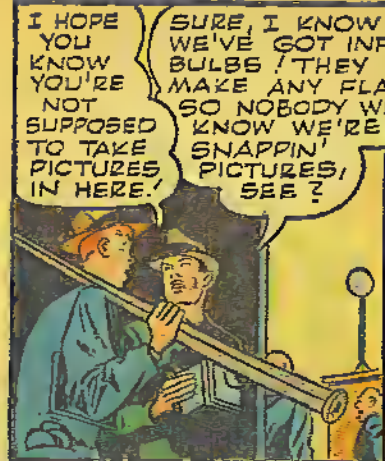
I NEVER SAW
HIM BEFORE IN
MY LIFE! COME
ON!! WE'VE GOT
TO GET TO THE
TRIAL!



UGH!!
WHO--
WHAT--
HEY!!
GET
AWAY
FROM
ME!
KID.

I BEG YOUR
PARDON, SIR!
THE WAY YOU
WERE LYING
IN THE GUTTER
THERE, I
THOUGHT YOU
WERE MY PAPA!
TSK, TSK! GROWN-
UPS ARE SO
UNPREDICTABLE!





I HOPE YOU KNOW YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO TAKE PICTURES IN HERE!

SURE, I KNOW IT! BUT WE'VE GOT INFRA-RED BULBS! THEY DON'T MAKE ANY FLASH-- SO NOBODY WILL KNOW WE'RE SNAPPIN' PICTURES! SEE?



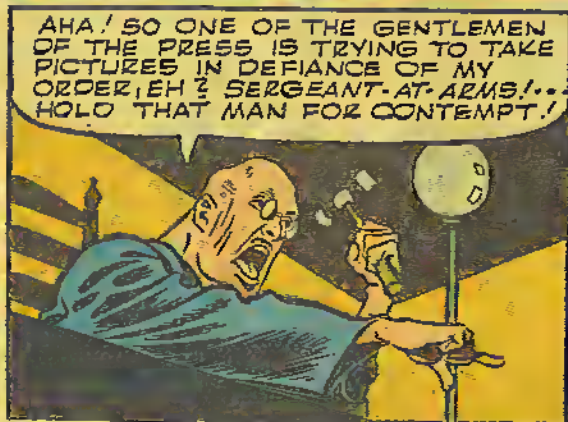
EVERYBODY RISE WHILE THE JUdge ENTERS THE COURT!!



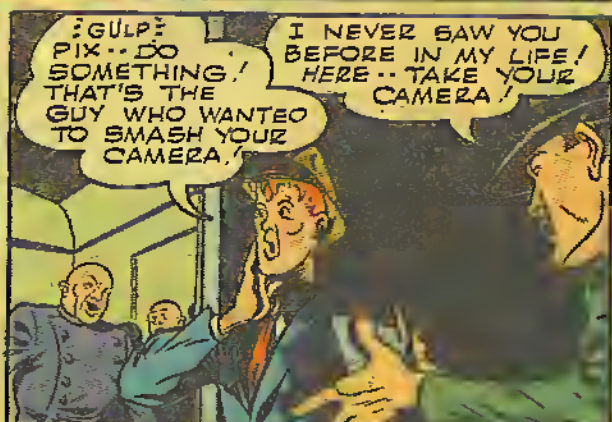
I WANT TO REPEAT THE WARNING THAT ANYONE TAKING PICTURES IN THIS COURT WILL BE HELD FOR CONTEMPT!

HEAR THAT? THAT'S WHAT I... OH-OH!

LOOK OUT!! THE TRIPOD!

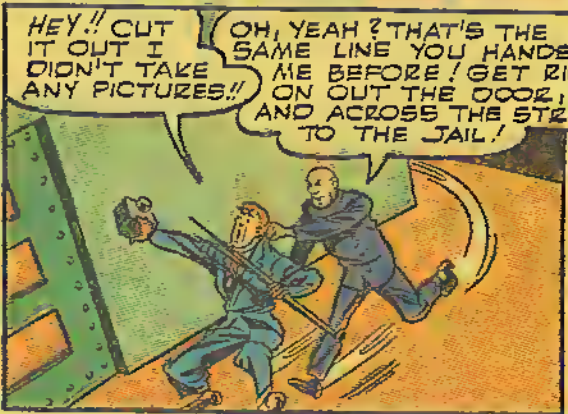


AHA! SO ONE OF THE GENTLEMEN OF THE PRESS IS TRYING TO TAKE PICTURES IN DEFIANCE OF MY ORDER, EH? SERGEANT-AT-ARMS!... HOLO THAT MAN FOR CONTEMPT!



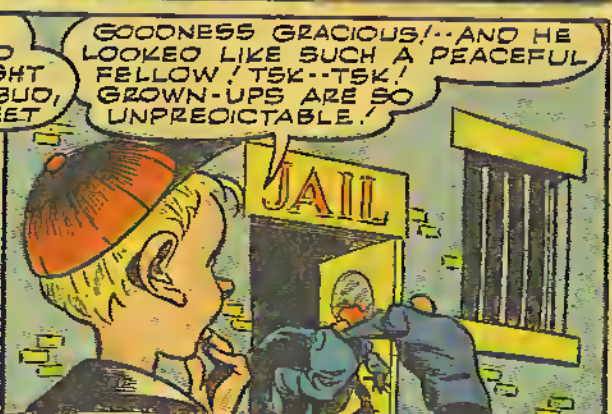
:GULP: PIX-- DO SOMETHING! THAT'S THE GUY WHO WANTED TO SMASH YOUR CAMERA!

I NEVER SAW YOU BEFORE IN MY LIFE! HERE-- TAKE YOUR CAMERA!

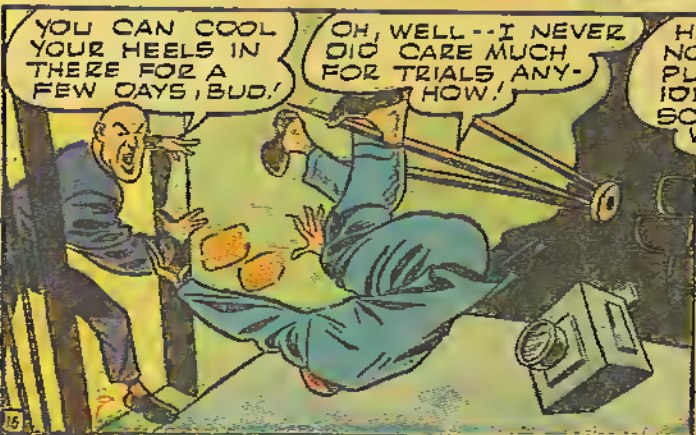


HEY!! CUT IT OUT I DIDN'T TAKE ANY PICTURES!!

OH, YEAH? THAT'S THE SAME LINE YOU HANDED ME BEFORE! GET RIGHT ON OUT THE DOOR, BUD, AND ACROSS THE STREET TO THE JAIL!



GOODNESS GRACIOUS!--AND HE LOOKED LIKE SUCH A PEACEFUL FELLOW! TSK--TSK! GROWN-UPS ARE SO UNPREDICTABLE!



YOU CAN COOL YOUR HEELS IN THERE FOR A FEW DAYS, BUD!

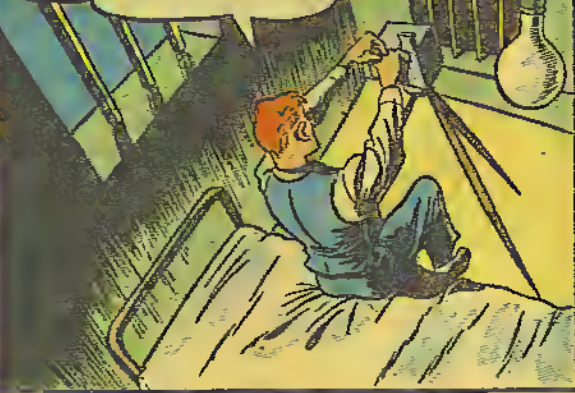
OH, WELL--I NEVER DID CARE MUCH FOR TRIALS ANYHOW!



HM-- A FINE ROOM THEY GAVE ME! NOT EVEN A LIGHT BULB IN THE PLACE!-- SAY--THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA! I'LL DO A LITTLE SCIENTIFIC EXPERIMENTING WHILE I'M RESTING!

Hours Later--

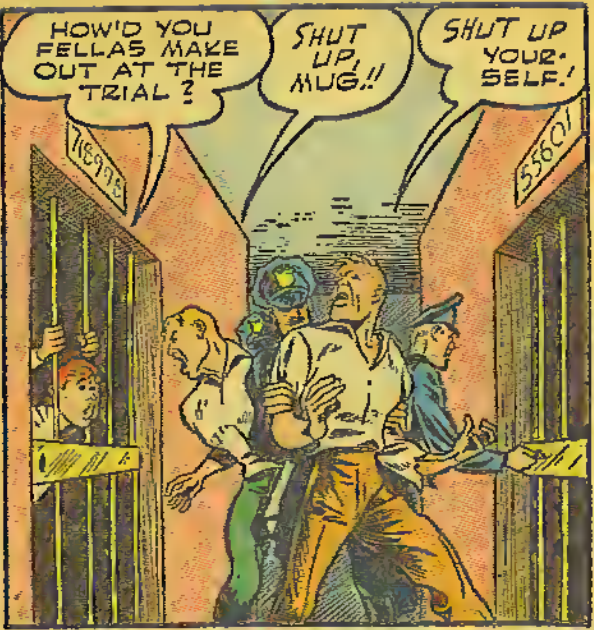
TUM-DIDDLE-DEE-DEE, ♪
A PHOTOGRAPHER I'LL BE..
TUM-DIDDLE-DEE-DEE-A..
HM.. SOUNDS LIKE
SOMEBODY COMING DOWN
THE HALL!



HOW'D YOU
FELLAS MAKE
OUT AT THE
TRIAL?

SHUT
UP,
MUG!!

SHUT UP
YOUR-
SELF!



WHY, YOU
LUG, I'LL
CRACK
EVERY BONE
IN YOUR
HEAD!!

OH, YEAH? YOU
COULDN'T CRACK
AN ICE CUBE
WITH A
SLEDGE-
HAMMER!

WE GOTTA
KEEP THESE
GUYS FROM
MOIDERIN'
EACH
OTHER,
MURPHY!

YEAH, BUT
HOW?
SAY, I'VE
GOT AN
IDEA! OPEN
UP THAT CELL
THERE!

GET IN THERE,
BIG BOY! YOU'LL
BE MORE
COMFORTABLE
IN THERE!

B-BUT
HOW
ABOUT
ME?



I JUST GOT ONE T'ING
TO SAY, BUG. JUST
DON'T GO SHOOTING
OFF NONE 'A' OEM FLASH
BULBS, SEE? THEY
SCAZES ME WHEN THEY
GO "POOF".

HUH.. I SEE
THE WARDEN IS
PUTTING FANCY
BULBS IN THE
CELLS
THESE
DAYS!

OH, THAT?
I PUT THAT
IN MYSELF..
JUST
EXPERIMENTIN'..
BUT IT
DOESN'T
WORK!!

THAT'S
THE
TROUBLE
WITH
THESE
FANCY
NEW INVENTIONS!
WELL, I
GOTTA GET
SOME REST!

DON'T LET ME
DISTURB YOU.
I'M JUST
FOOLING
AROUND
TRYING TO
LEARN
SOMETHING
ABOUT
CAMERAS!
WHEN THE
LIGHTS GO OUT
THOUGH, I'LL HAVE
TO QUIT.

OH, DON'T
WORRY. THESE
DON'T DO THAT--
THEY'RE INFR-
RED.



OOPS!! THERE
YEAH/AN' JUS' LET ME WARN YA
THEY THAT IF YA HEAR
GO! SOMETHIN' DURIN'
MIGHT THE NIGHT-DON'T
AS WELL INVESTIGATE OR
TURN IN, YOU MIGHT GIT
I GUESS! HURT, SAVVY?

MIDNIGHT-- AND FROM
OUT OF THE SHADOWS IN
THE CELL BLOCK GLIDES
A SINISTER FIGURE! THEN,
THE GLINT OF STEEL AS A
KNIFE DESCENDS, AND THE
GUARD GASPS HIS LAST
BREATH!

SECONDS LATER, THE
MURDERER APPEARS AT
THE DOOR OF HAP'S CELL--

HEY, BIGGY! I'VE BEEN
EXPECTIN' YOU
COME ON! SARGE! IT'S A
GOOD THING
YOU CAME, TOO!--
IF YOU HADN'T 'A'
SPRUNG US, WE WAS
ALL SET TO SQUEAL
THAT YOU'RE THE
BRAINS BEHIND THIS
OUTFIT!



TURN ON
THE LIGHT
SO'S YOU
DON'T FALL
OVER
SOMETHING!

YEAH--HERE--OH, I
FORGOT--IT
DOESN'T WORK!
THAT GOOFY
CAMERA BUG
WAS FOOLIN'
AROUND WITH
IT!

WHAT!! YOU IN
THE SAME
CELL WITH HIM?
I'M GONNA BUMP
HIM OFF! WHAT
IF HE'S TAKIN'
PICTURES!

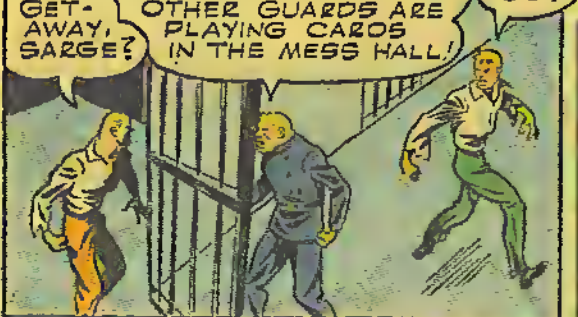
FORGIT IT, SARGE! I
ALREADY THOUGHT OF
THAT! I OPENEO THE
SHUTTER ON THE CAMERA
SO'S IT RUINED THE PLATE!
BESIDES THE DUNCE IS SOUND
ASLEEP LIKE A BABY!



EVERY-
ONE
SET
FOR
THE
GET-
AWAY,
SARGE?

YES! ALL WE HAVE
TO DO IS BE QUIET!
WE CAN GET THROUGH
THE GATE--ALL THE
OTHER GUARDS ARE
PLAYING CARDS
IN THE MESS HALL!

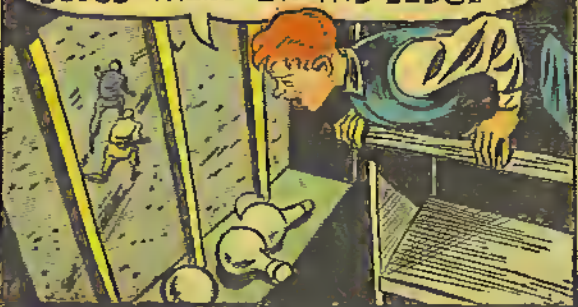
COME
ON,
LET'S
GO!



A FEW SECONDS LATER--THE TRIO
OF DESPERADOS STARTS DOWN
TO THE PRISON YARD---



GOSH! THERE THEY GO!-- AND NOTHING
I CAN DO ABOUT IT!-- EXCEPT TRY TO
TAKE A PICTURE OF THEM! I'D
BETTER GET ONE OF THOSE
BULBS THERE ON THE LEDGE...



UMPH!! GOTTA STRETCH
A LITTLE TO--WOW!!
STRETCHED TOO FAR!!



Q. SPLIT SECOND LATER,
AS THE BULBS TUMBLE
OFF THE LEDGE AND
CRASH INTO THE COURT
BELOW---

THEY'VE
SEEN
US!

SHOOT
YOUR
WAY
OUT!!

SOMETHIN'
MUST 'A'
WENT
'WRONG!



WELL I'LL BE DOGGONNED!!
THOSE BULBS EXPLODE
WHEN THEY GET DROPPED!
YOU LEARN SOMETHING
EVERY DAY, DON'T
YOU?



THE CRASH OF THE
BULBS AND THE
ANSWERING ROAR OF
GUNFIRE SENDS THE
GUARDS CASCADING
AFTER THE KILLERS---



WELL,
WELL,
IF IT
AIN'T
THE
SERGEANT
AT ARMS!

I'M INNOCENT!!
THESE MEN
TRIED TO
ESCAPE
AND
TOOK
ME
ALONG
AS HOSTAGE!

I'LL BET
HE PICKED
UP THAT
LINE FROM
LISTENING
TO ALL
THE
LAWYERS
IN COURT!

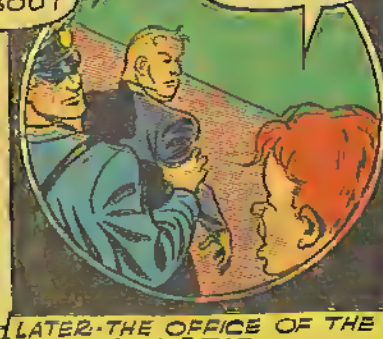
I'M INNOCENT!! I'LL
SPEAK TO THE
JUDGE! I'LL TAKE
THIS THING TO THE
MAYOR! I'M AN
INFLUENTIAL MAN!

SAYS YOU! WE'LL
JUST ASK THAT
KID THERE WHAT
HE KNOWS ABOUT
THIS!!

YOU SEE
ANYTHING
HAPPEN
AROUND
HERE
TONIGHT,
BRIGHT
EYES?

WHATEVER HE
SAYS IS A LIE!
HE CAN'T
PROVE ANYTHING

WELL, IT WAS
PRETTY DARK
SO I COULDN'T
RECOGNIZE
ANYBODY!



-- BUT I THINK I HAVE THIS
MAN'S PICTURE IN MY CAMERA!
YOU SEE, I HAD AN INFRA-RED
FLASH BULB IN THE CEILING AND
ONE OF THEM SNAPPED THE
SWITCH, WHICH SET THE BULB
OFF! IF THE SHUTTER OF THE
CAMERA WAS OPEN, LIKE
THAT THUG SAID IT WAS,
THEN I SHOULD HAVE
THE EVIDENCE!

GET OVER
TO YOUR
PAPER
AND
GET
THAT FILM
DEVELOPED,
KID! YOU
GET IN THERE,
SARGIE!

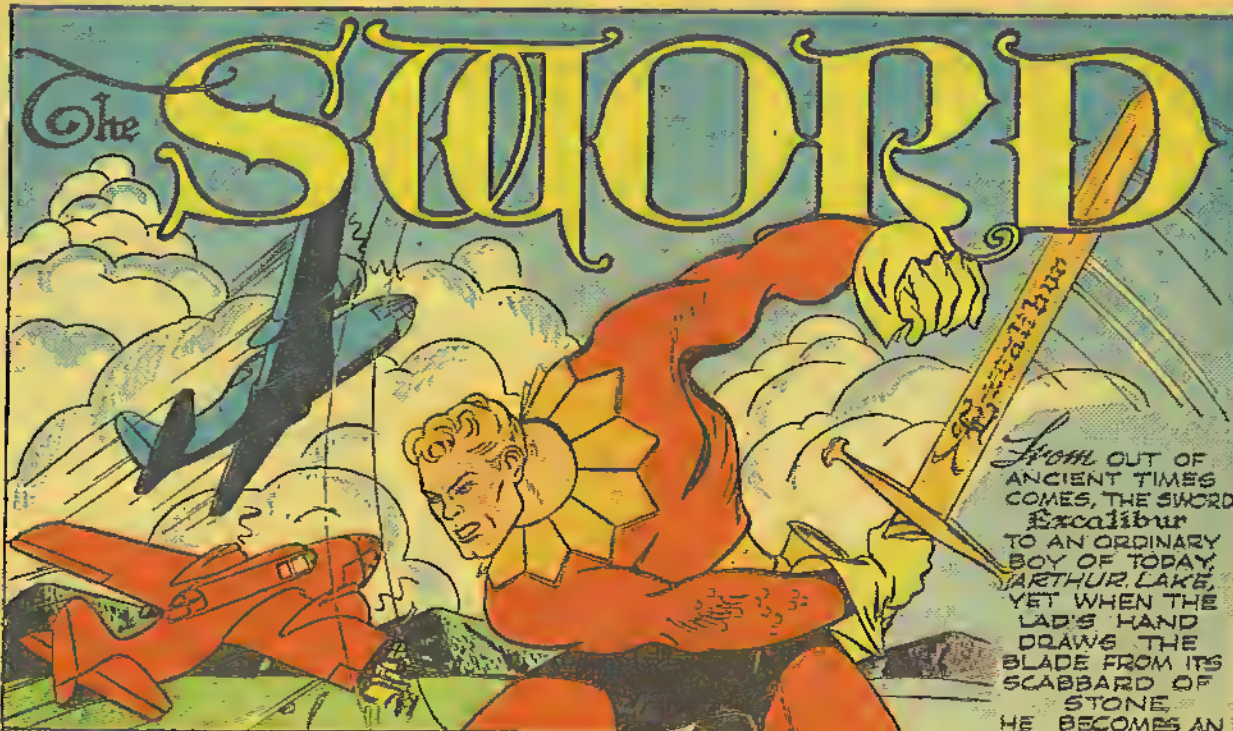
I'LL
LET
YOU
KNOW AS
SOON AS
WE
DEVELOP
IT,
MISTER!

SURE! SO
YOU GOT THE
EVIDENCE--
AND THE
GUYS WERE
CAUGHT--
BUT LOOK
AT ALL
THE BULBS
YOU BROKE!

I'M SORRY,
PIX-- IT
WAS AN
ACCIDENT--
HONEST!!

I OUGHT
TO TAKE
IT OUT OF
YOUR WEEK'S
SALARY,
HAP-- EXCEPT
YOU DON'T
MAKE THAT
MUCH!





FROM OUT OF
ANCIENT TIMES
COMES, THE SWORD
EXCALIBUR
TO AN ORDINARY
BOY OF TODAY,
ARTHUR LAKE,
YET WHEN THE
LAD'S HAND
DRAWS THE
BLADE FROM ITS
SCABBARD OF
STONE,
HE BECOMES AN
INVINCIBLE
FIGHTER FOR
JUSTICE...
THE
**FEARLESS,
POWERFUL**
Sword

OUR STORY BEGINS SHORTLY BE-
FORE A MEETING OF THE LAKE
AIRCRAFT COMPANIES BOARD OF
DIRECTORS!

YOU'VE GOT THE PAPERS
ROMANO! REMEMBER,
IF ANYTHING SHOULD
HAPPEN TO ME...
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO
ACT IN MY PLACE AT
THE PLANT WITH
FULL AUTHORITY!

DON'T
WORRY
MR.
LAKE?

SOON AFTER...

..AND AS MAJORITY
STOCKHOLDER..
I PROPOSE THAT
WE USE OUR PROFITS
TO GIVE PLANES TO THE
ARMY AND NAVY...
PROFITS SHOULD BE
FORGOTTEN IN AN
EMERGENCY!

NONSENSE!
BEFORE
THE NEXT MEETING
YOU'LL CHANGE YOUR
MIND!

THAT NIGHT, IN A GABLED
HOUSE IN THE SUBURBS?

YOU CAN DO IT! YOUR POWERS
ARE GREAT! YOU CAN FOR-
TELL THE FUTURE!
YOU CAN MAKE
THE FUTURE!

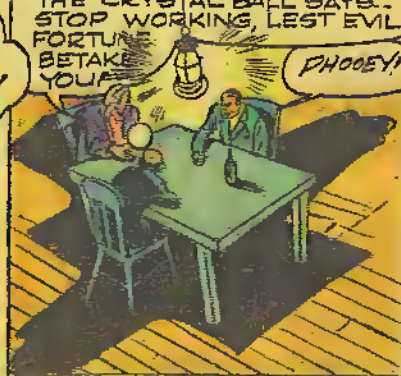
YES!..
I CAN..
I CAN!

NEXT DAY, WITHIN THE OLD
HOUSE..LAKE AIRPLANE
WORKERS LISTEN TO AN
AGED GYPSY!

THE CRYSTAL BALL SAYS..
STOP WORKING, LEST EVIL
FORTUNE
BETAKE
YOU!

PHOOEY!

REMEMBER THE GYPSY'S
PROPHECY!.. LAKE'S
FACTORY IS DOOMED!..
AND ALL WHO CONTINUE
TO WORK FOR HIM ARE
ALSO DOOMED!



NEXT MORNING IN HIS FACTORY, MR. LAKE SPEAKS TO HIS SON ARTHUR, IN REALITY THE FAMED SWORD...

WELL, ARTHUR...OUR NEW TANK PLANES WILL BE READY SOON...AND... BUT YOU AREN'T LISTENING!

SORRY, DAD, BUT OLD JOHNSON SEEMS TO BE HAVING AN ARGUMENT WITH YOUR FOREMAN, ROMANO!

YOU MAY BE THE FOREMAN, ROMANO, BUT I'M AN OLD MAN...AND I SAW THAT GYPSY PUT A CURSE ON US!

DON'T BE AN OLD FOOL, JOHNSON!

WHAT'S ALL THIS TALK ABOUT GYPSIES... BACK TO WORK MEN... AMERICA IS DEPENDING ON OUR NEW PLANES!

YOU SAID IT, CHIEF!

WATCH OUT BELOW!

THAT CRANE...IT'S HEADED FOR DAD!

ARTHUR DIVES FORWARD AS THE HUGE CRANE THUNDERS TOWARD MR. LAKE!!

DOOF!!

I SAW WHAT HAPPENED... MAYBE THAT GYPSY WAS RIGHT... MAYBE THIS FACTORY IS DOOMED!

...AND MISSES!!

WHAT'S THIS ABOUT
A GYPSY AND A CURSE?
... THAT NEAR ACCIDENT
WAS JUST A COINCIDENCE.
... AND TO PROVE IT, I'LL
SEE THAT GYPSY, MY-
SELF, RIGHT NOW!



ARTHUR... YOUR
FATHER IS A
BRAVE MAN
GOING TO
FACE THAT
GYPSY...
ALONE!!

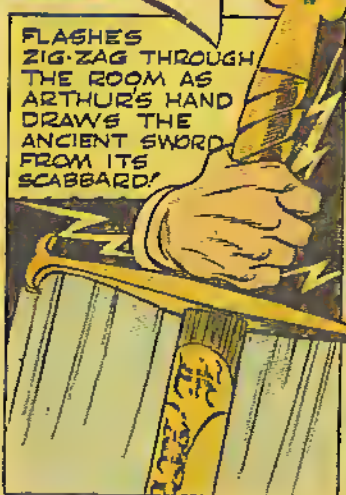
AH-HUH... BUT
HE WON'T
BE ALONE...
FOR THE GYPSY
IS GOING TO
GET A VISIT
FROM THE
SWORD!

MINUTES LATER...
IN THE LAKE MANSION
ARTHUR'S HAND
REACHES FOR...

EXCALIBUR!



FLASHES
ZIG-ZAG THROUGH
THE ROOM AS
ARTHUR'S HAND
DRAWS THE
ANCIENT SWORD
FROM ITS
SCABBARD!



... AND ARTHUR LAKE HAS
ASSUMED THE IDENTITY OF
THE SWORD!



... AND NOW TO SEE HOW
DAD'S MAKING OUT!



SOON AFTER, OUTSIDE
THE GYPSY'S HOUSE!

I'M NOT AFRAID OF
YOUR CURSES... AND
I'LL KEEP RIGHT ON
BUILDING PLANES
FOR AMERICA!



HABA... I DON'T
SEE HOW
YOU'RE GOING
TO BUILD
PLANES, AFTER
YOU'RE DEAD!

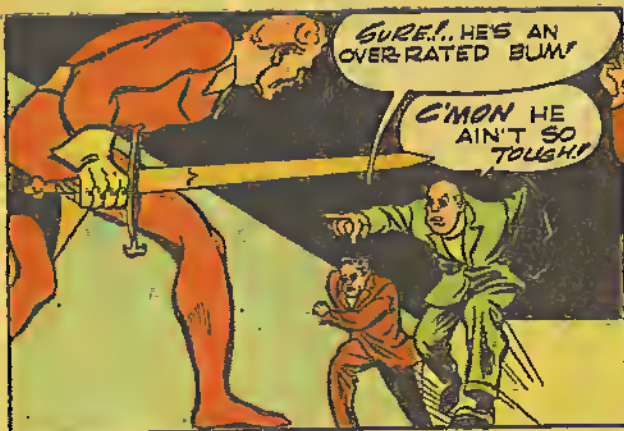
LET
THAT
MAN
GO!



WHO SAID
THAT?

LET ME
INTRODUCE
MYSELF —
THE SWORD!





THE OLD HOUSE LEAPS
INTO INSTANT
FLAME

"WHEW!! THAT WAS A
CLOSE CALL... BUT
WHERE IS
EVERYBODY?"

MR. LAKE...
MR. LAKE...
WHERE
ARE
YOU?

THE SWORD ESCAPES..
NOT A SECOND TOO SOON

NEXT MORNING..AT THE FACTORY..

BOYS... THE KID HAS
MORE COURAGE THAN
WE... THOUGH HE'S
LOST HIS DAD, HE
WANTS US TO CON-
TINUE MAKING PLANES!
HE SAYS IT'S WHAT
HIS FATHER WOULD
WANT YOU TO DO
WHAT DO YOU
SAY??

ME
TOO!

I'M WITH
HIM!

HEE-HEE-HE
HE-HAW-HEHE!
:GACKLE:

YOUR DAD WOULD
BE PROUD OF YOUR
PLAN, ARTHUR..
I'VE CALLED THE
MEN FOR A
SPECIAL
MEETING."

THANKS FOR
YOUR HELP
ROMANO...
I DON'T KNOW
WHAT I'D DO
IF YOU WERENT
HERE."

FOOLS! HAVEN'T
YOU LEARNED
YOUR LESSON...
THE FACTORY IS
CURSED! CURSED!

WHAT TH.
THE GYPSY
...

YOU OLD HAG! YOU'RE RE-
SPONSIBLE FOR THIS! YOU
EVIL OLD WITCH! I
WISH YOU WERE DEAD!

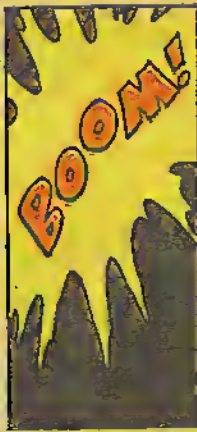
ARTHUR!
HUSH... SHE'S A
HELPLESS
OLD LADY...
THAT'S NO
WAY TO ACT!

THOSE WHO ARE GOOD
AND GENTLE SPEAKETH
WITH NO WRATH TO
THEIR ELDERS, RETURN
NOT EVIL WITH EVIL, BUT
EVIL WITH GOOD!

I DON'T CARE! I
HATE YOU... I WISH
YOU WERE DEAD!



GET
HER!



BOOM!



SHE... SHE'S GONE?...
AND SO IS THE KID!..
THEY.. THEY DISAPPEARED..
AS IF... AS IF THE
EARTH 'SWALLOWED'
THEM!!



But... A DISTANCE AWAY...

WHAT HAPPENED?
W..WHERE AM
I.. FATHER!!

LOOK AT
HIM WELL,
FOR SOON
YOU WILL SEE
HIM NO LONGER!!
HEE-HEE...

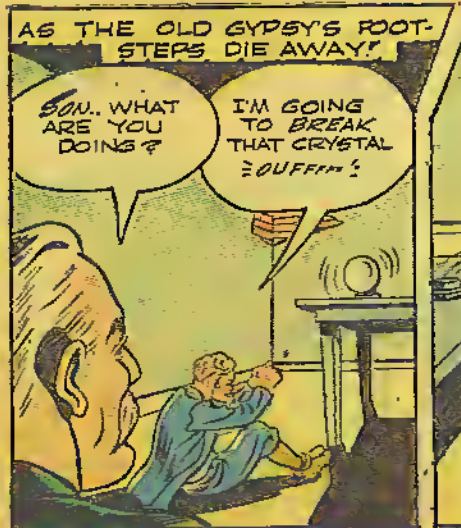


...AND THE FACTORY
WILL BE MINE?
MINE!



I NOW GO TO CALL MY
PEOPLE... SO THEY MAY
ASSIST ME IN THE RITES
OF DEATH.. YOUR
RITES OF DEATH! HE-HEG...

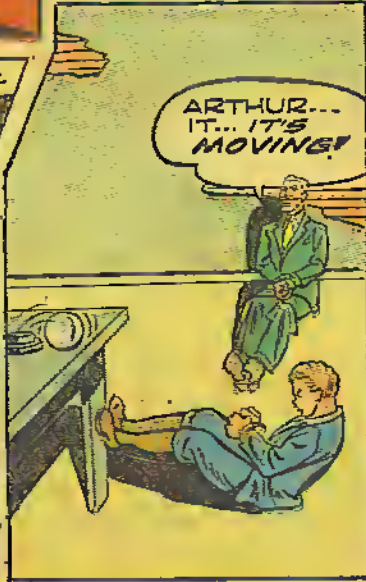
I'VE GOT AN
IDEA... HMMNN...



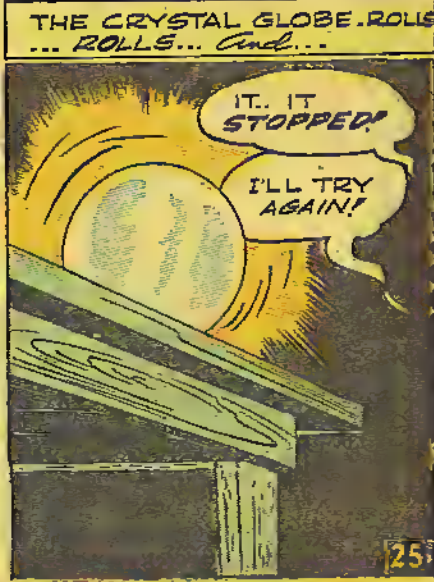
AS THE OLD GYPSY'S FOOT-
STEPS DIE AWAY!

SON.. WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?

I'M GOING
TO BREAK
THAT CRYSTAL
GLOBE!!



ARTHUR...
IT... IT'S
MOVING!



THE CRYSTAL GLOBE ROLLS...
... ROLLS... And...

IT. IT
STOPPED!

I'LL TRY
AGAIN!

ANOTHER LUNGE...AND...

LONG MINUTES LATER!

THERE IT GOES... AND
NOW TO FREE BOTH
OF US!

WELL... I'VE
CUT MY BONDS
... AND NOW...
FATHER!
WHAT IS
IT??

FOOTSTEPS!
THE GYPSIES
ARE COMING!
RUN ARTHUR
AND TRY TO
SAVE THE FACTORY.
THE PLANES ARE
MORE IMPORTANT
THAN I AM!

DAD DOESN'T KNOW IT...
BUT BOTH HE AND THE
FACTORY ARE GOING TO
BE SAVED BY THE
SWORD!



INTO THE ROOM WHERE
EXCALIBUR IS HIDDEN,
RUSHES ARTHUR LAKE.



AS HE HAS DONE IN THE PAST
HE TUGS AT THE SWORD...
... BUT...



IT MUST COME OUT!
IT MUST! WHY DOESN'T
IT COME OUT?



SUDDENLY...

EXCALIBUR IS FOR THE
PURE IN HEART!
RESPECT THE AGED!
RETURN NOT EVIL
WITH EVIL!



Confused
BY THE
EVENTS
OF
THE
LAST
MINUTES,
ARTHUR
LAKE
WALKS
DAZEDLY
OUT
OF
HIS
HOME

I'VE GOT TO SAVE FATHER,
BUT IF I'M NOT THE
SWORD... HOW CAN
I DO IT?



I DON'T UNDERSTAND
THAT OLD GYPSY... I WAS
MEAN SPEAKING TO
HER AS I DID...

SHOO DOG!



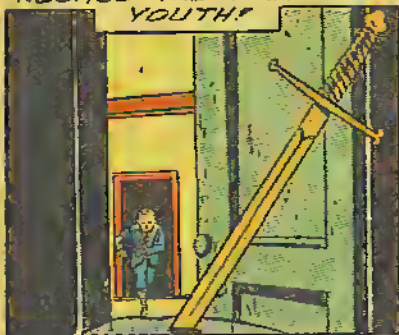
NICE PUSSY... PUSSY...
C'MON I'LL GET
YOU DOWN!



HERE YOU ARE, KITTY...
MAYBE IT DIDN'T REALLY
HAPPEN, OR MAYBE I
DIDN'T PULL RIGHT... I'M
GOING TO GO BACK AND
TRY AGAIN.



INTO THE ROOM WHERE
EXCALIBUR IS HIDDEN
RUSHES THE FRANTIC
YOUTH!

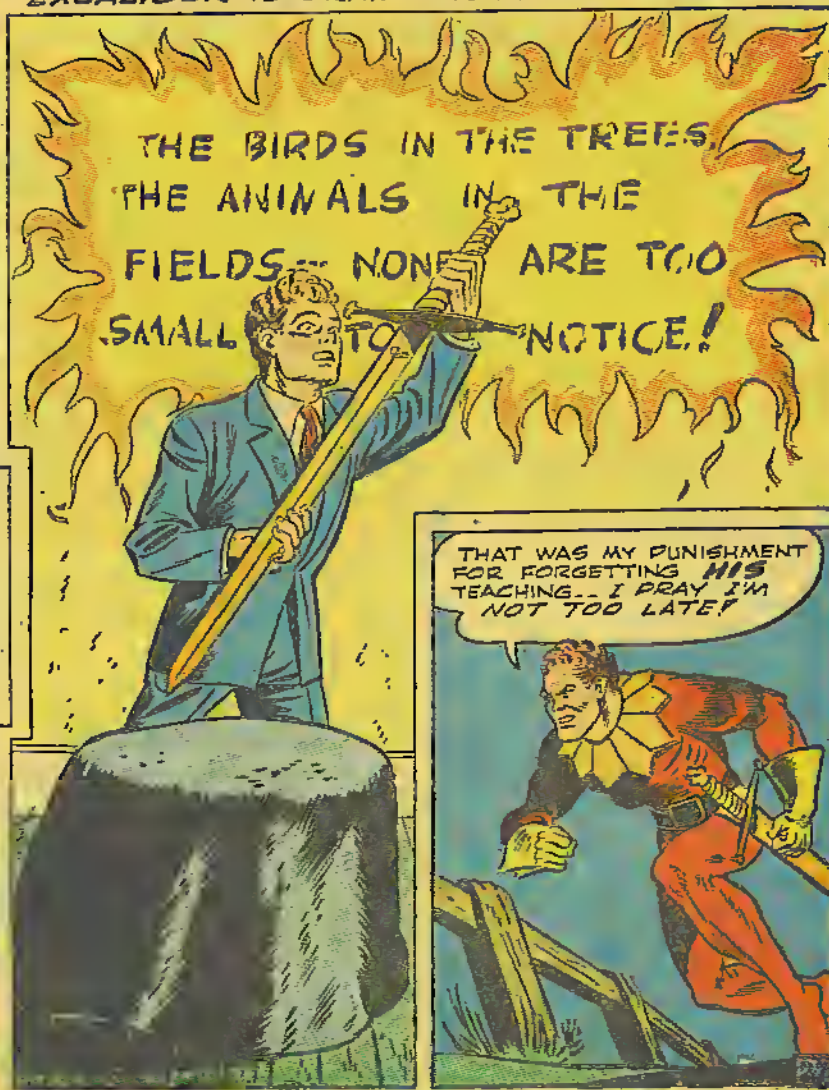


ARTHUR LAKE BECOMES
THE MIGHTY FIGHTER FOR
JUSTICE, THE **SWORD!**



YOU HAVE CLEANSSED
YOUR SOUL, ARTHUR
LAKE! GO NOW AS THE
SWORD! FOR ONLY
THE PURE IN HEART
MAY USE
EXCALIBUR

THUNDER ROARS AND LIGHTNING FLASHES AS
EXCALIBUR IS DRAWN FROM ITS SCABBARD!



THE BIRDS IN THE TREES,
THE ANIMALS IN THE
FIELDS... NONE ARE TOO
SMALL TO NOTICE!

THAT WAS MY PUNISHMENT
FOR FORGETTING **HIS**
TEACHING... I PRAY I'M
NOT TOO LATE!



MEANWHILE... AT THE FACTORY...
BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAVE
BEEN CALLED TO A SPECIAL
MEETING!

I KNOW IT'S UNUSUAL TO
CALL A MEETING LIKE THIS
HERE... BUT WITH MR. LAKE
DEAD AND HIS BOY DIS-
APPEARED... I NOW HAVE
CONTROL WITH THIS PROXY
MR. LAKE GAVE ME!

WHAT DO YOU
PROPOSE TO
DO?

I'M GOING TO MAKE MONEY!
PLENTY OF MONEY!
I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT
MY COUNTRY... I'M WORRIED
ABOUT JOE ROMANO!
HA! THE BIGGER THE
PROFITS...
-- THE
BETTER
!!

THAT'S WHAT
YOU THINK!

TH... THE
SWORD!

I'VE GOT A
GOOD IDEA WHOS
BEEN BEHIND
THE DISAPPEAR-
ANCE OF ARTHUR
LAKE AND HIS
FATHER... ROMANO
... I'M COMING
FOR
YOU!!!

AS THE SWORD DIVES
DOWNWARD!

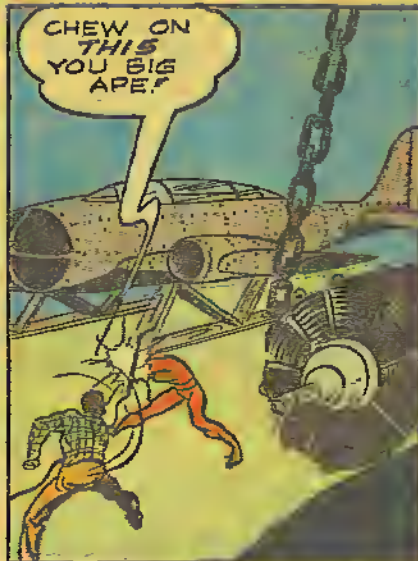
EVEN THE MIGHTY
SWORD
RECOILS FROM THE
TERRIFIC HEAT OF
THE WELDING FLAME!

MEET YOUR
DOOM...
HA. HAH

THE FLAME IS DYING!...THE GAS SUPPLY IS EXHAUSTED!



CHEW ON THIS YOU BIG APE!



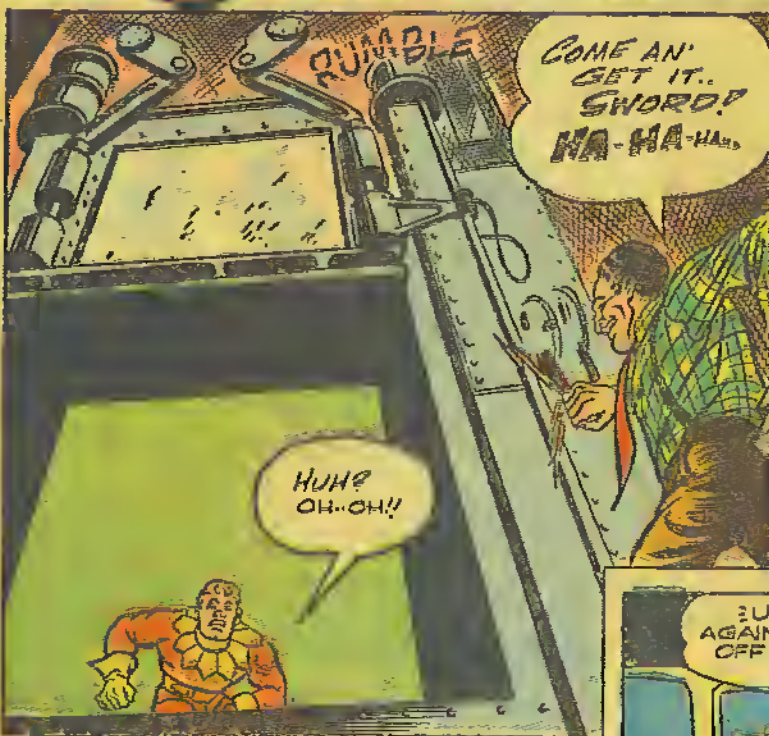
THIS TIME I'LL STOP THE SWORD..... PERMANENTLY!!



RUMBLE

COME AN' GET IT.. SWORD? NA-HA-HA..

HUH? OH..OH!!



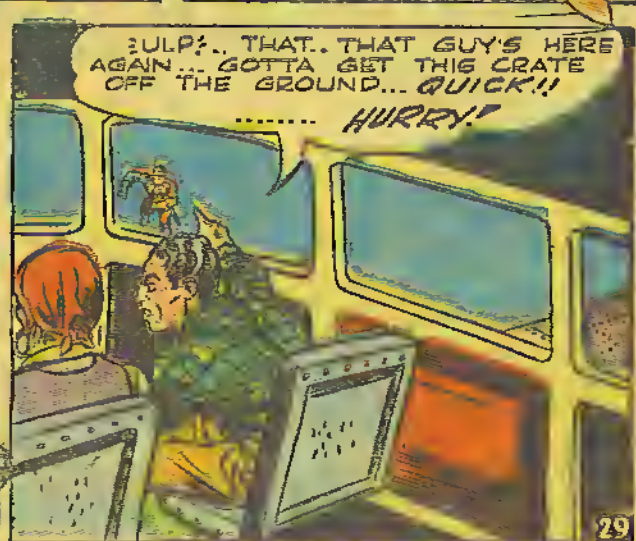
AS THE TRIP HAMMER CRASHES DOWN, THE SWORD PULLS EXCALIBUR FROM ITS SCABBARD!



!ULP?... THAT.. THAT GUY'S HERE AGAIN... GOTTA GET THIS CRATE OFF THE GROUND... QUICK!!

HURRY!

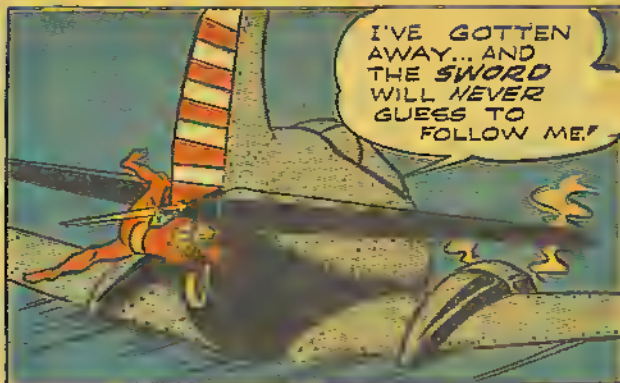
THE SWORD'S DEAD!...GOOD THING I TOLD THE OLD BOY TO STAY AT THE CONTROLS OF A PLANE, HERE I COME...GET 'ER MOVING!



BUT... AS THE PLANE SHOOTS INTO THE AIR... THE **SWORD** LEAPS FORWARD... AND...

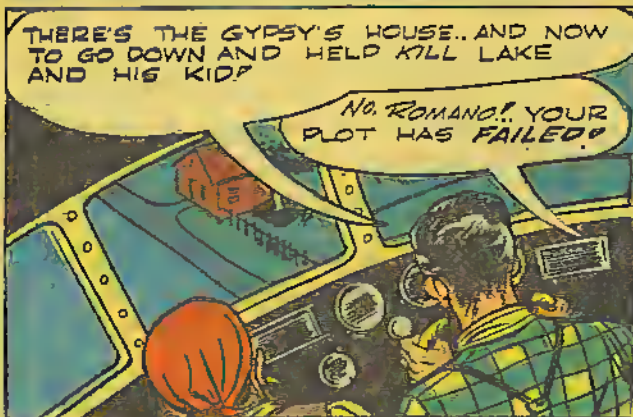


I'VE GOTTEN AWAY... AND THE **SWORD** WILL NEVER GUESS TO FOLLOW ME!



THERE'S THE GYPSY'S HOUSE... AND NOW TO GO DOWN AND HELP KILL LAKE AND HIS KID!

NO, ROMANO! YOUR PLOT HAS FAILED!



WHO SAID... NO... NO... YOU'RE DEAD... YOU **MUST** BE DEAD!

I WOULD HAVE DIED BUT FOR **EXCALIBUR!**



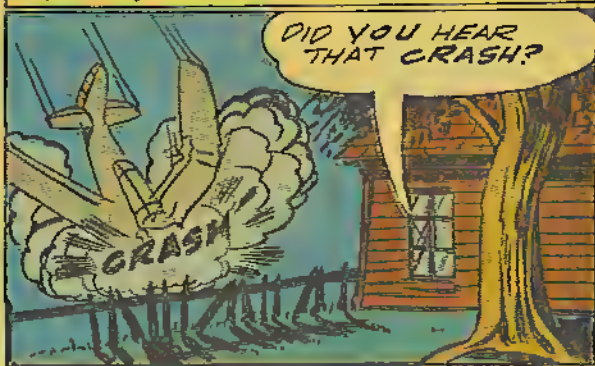
YOU'LL NEVER GET ME! THIS TIME... I'LL MAKE SURE!

NO! DON'T DO NO!



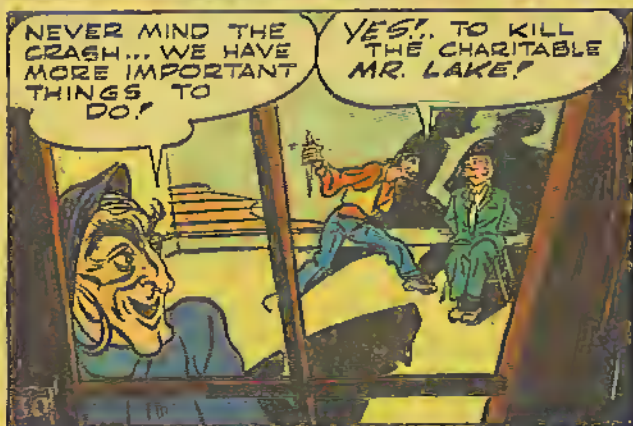
THE CONTROLS WRECKED... THE PLANE WAVERS, NOSES OVER... AND

DID YOU HEAR THAT CRASH?



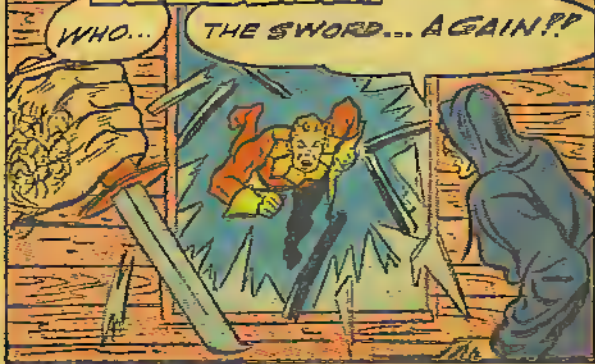
NEVER MIND THE CRASH... WE HAVE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO!

YES!... TO KILL THE CHARITABLE MR. LAKE!



But... AS THE DEADLY BLADE BEGINS TO DESCEND!

WHO... THE **SWORD**... AGAIN??



THE SWORD MOVES... FAST!

D...DON'T HIT ME!



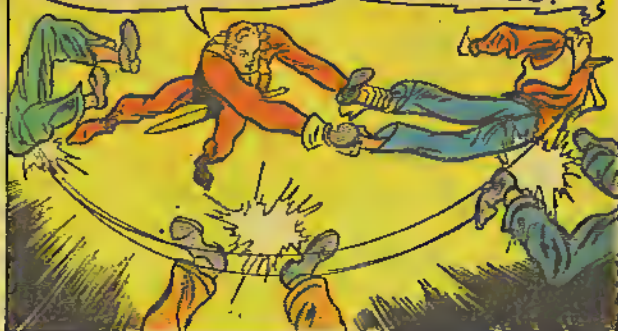
I'LL FINISH THE JOB MYSELF!

OH...OH?



OKAY... SO YOU DO THE HITTING!

AAAAHHEEE!



A MAILED FIGURE STREAKS ACROSS THE ROOM...AND...

PRACTICE ON ME... JUST LIKE ROMANO!

DID YOU SAY ROMANO?



YES. HE AND THE OLD BOY DIED IN THE PLANE CRASH!

M... MY SON AND HUSBAND... TH... THEY'RE GONE... DEAD... I... I MAY AS TELL YOU EVERYTHING!

ROMANO MADE ME FEEL I HAD SUPERNATURAL POWERS UNKNOWN TO ME... MY PREDICTIONS CAME TRUE... WHEN I FOUND OUT... IT WAS TOO LATE! HE MADE ME AND MY PEOPLE WORK WITH HIM!



HIS PLAN FROM THE BEGINNING, WAS CONTROL OF THE FACTORY... HE WAS MONEY-MAD... WHEN HE COULDN'T FRIGHTEN MR. LAKE'S SON, HE MADE ME COME TO THE FACTORY... SET OFF FLASH-LIGHT POWDER TO KIDNAP THE BOY DURING THE EXCITEMENT... I... I GUESS THAT'S ALL!

WELL-ER... MR. LAKE, YOU'VE HEARD THE CONFESSION. I'LL SEND THE POLICE OVER... AND NOW I, MUST GO!

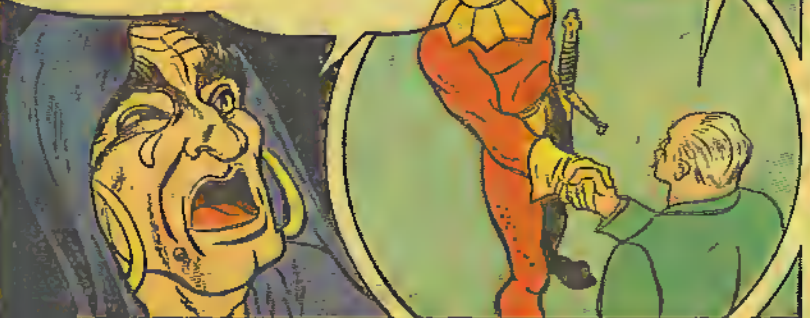
GOOD-BYE SWORD... AND BLESS YOU!!

Hours Later.. INSIDE THE LAKE MANSION..

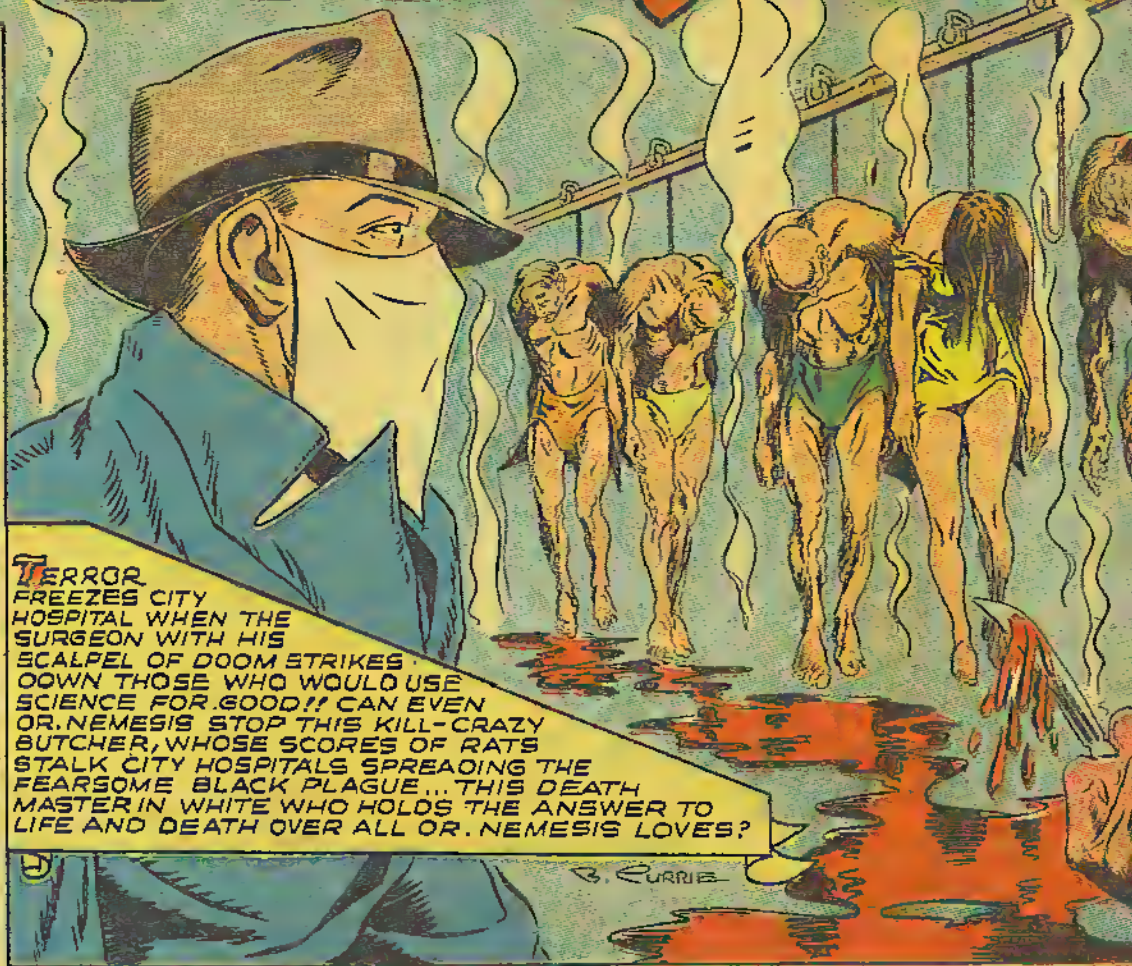
...AND SO, ARTHUR.. AFTER THE SWORD LEFT, THE POLICE CAME AND.. WELL.. THE GYPSIES ARE LOCKED UP... AND PLANES WILL CONTINUE TO BE BUILT FOR AMERICA!

GOSH DAD.. THAT STORY WAS INTERESTING!.. I WONDER IF I'LL EVER MEET THE SWORD!!

WHAT DO YOU THINK? DON'T FORGET... ANOTHER EXCITING SWORD STORY IN THE NEXT ISSUE!



DOCTOR NEMESIS



TERROR FREEZES CITY HOSPITAL WHEN THE SURGEON WITH HIS SCALPEL OF DOOM STRIKES DOWN THOSE WHO WOULD USE SCIENCE FOR GOOD!! CAN EVEN OR. NEMESIS STOP THIS KILL-CRAZY BUTCHER, WHOSE SCORES OF RATS STALK CITY HOSPITALS SPREADING THE FEARSOME BLACK PLAGUE... THIS DEATH MASTER IN WHITE WHO HOLDS THE ANSWER TO LIFE AND DEATH OVER ALL OR. NEMESIS LOVES?

IN THE LABORATORY OF CITY HOSPITAL..

WELL, GENTLEMEN, THANKS TO THE CORPSE HERE, WE HAVE SOLVED THE BLACK PLAGUE.

THIS IS A BANNER DAY FOR SCIENCE. THE WORLD HAS LONG AWAITED THE FORMULA FOR THIS CURE!

WE CAN INFORM DR. BLACKTON THAT OUR EXPERIMENTS ARE A SUCCESS.

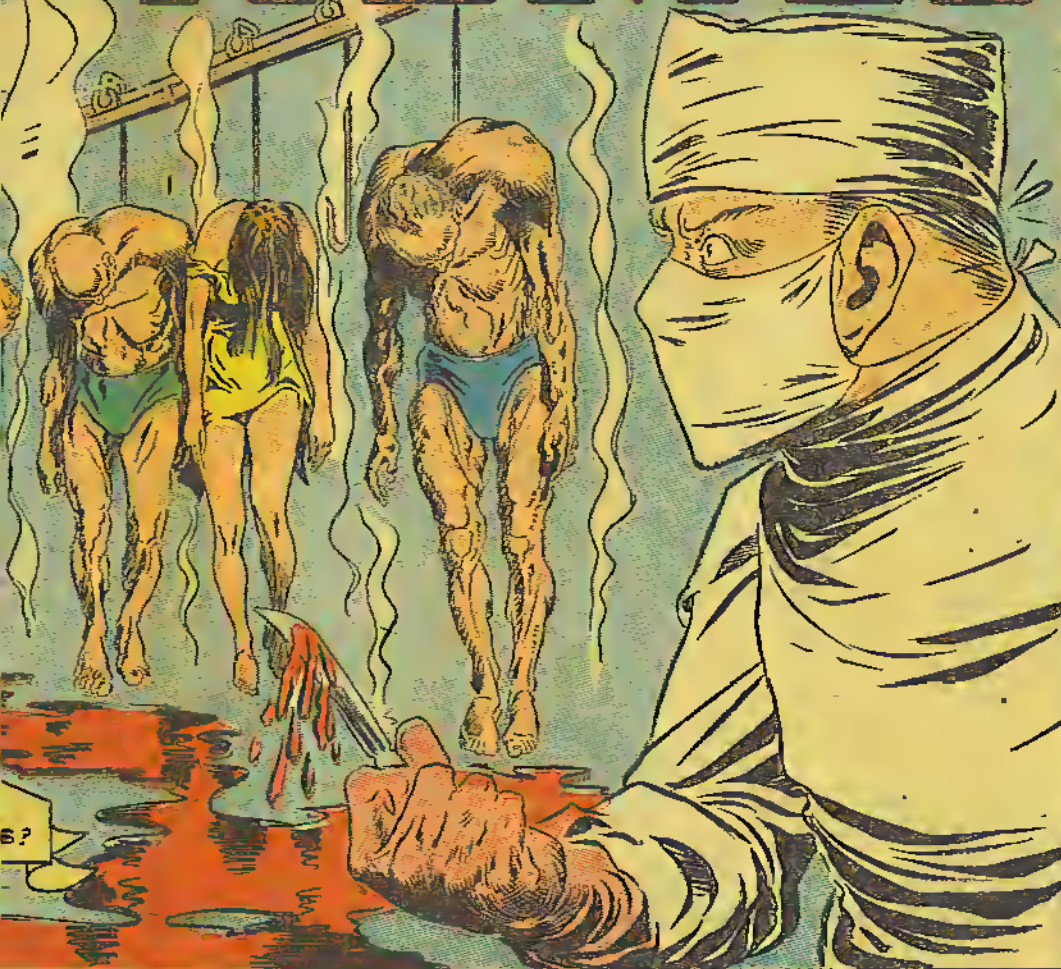
IF WE'RE THROUGH WITH THE CORPSE, I'LL TAKE IT TO THE MORGUE!

BETTER LEAVE HIS FALSE TEETH. WE MAY WANT TO MAKE A FEW MORE SLIDES FROM THEM?

BUDDY, YOU DID A GOOD JOB FOR MANKIND BY TURNING YOUR BODY OVER TO SCIENCE. IF THE BACK PLAGUE STRIKES AGAIN, WE'LL BE ABLE TO COMBAT IT!

NURSE STRONG! WHAT'S THE MATTER?

NEMESIS



YOU DID A
JOB FOR
KING BY TURN-
OUR BODY
TO SCIENCE.
E BACK PLAGUE
ES AGAIN,
- BE ABLE TO
MBAT IT?

NURSE
STRONG?
WHAT'S THE
MATTER?

DR.
BRADLEY,
PLEASE?
I MUST
SPEAK
TO YOU
FOR A
MOMENT!

MORGUE

IT'S DR. LIONEL? HE'S DUE
TO OPERATE BEFORE THE
BOARD AND HE'S IN NO
CONDITION.. HIS HEART IS
TROUBLING HIM?

AND IF HE
BUNGLES THE
OPERATION, OR IF
THEY DISCOVER HIS
CONITION, HE'S
FINISHED, EH?
WELL HE'S DONE
ENOUGH FOR
ME.

THEY DON'T NEED ME
UPSTAIRS NOW... GET
DR. LIONEL INTO A
PRIVATE ROOM AND KEEP
HIM THERE. I'LL TAKE HIS
PLACE, WITH A MASK OVER
MY FACE, NO ONE WILL
KNOW THE DIFFERENCE..
COME ON, LET'S GET
TO HIM?

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO THANK YOU FOR THIS, BRADLEY...

FORGET IT, DR. LIONEL! WE THREE ARE THE ONLY ONES WHO KNOW OF YOUR AILMENT. NO NEED FOR YOU TO STOP ALL YOUR OTHER GOOD WORK BECAUSE OF IT.



GOOD AFTERNOON, OR. LIONEL!

READY FOR THE OPERATION, OR. LIONEL!

YOUR INSTRUMENTS ARE READY, OR. LIONEL!



Taking THE PLACE OF THE OLDER DOCTOR, BRADLEY, GOES INTO THE OPERATING ROOM.

MEANWHILE, UP IN THE RESEARCH LABORATORY.

WHERE'S BRADLEY? HE'S BEEN GONE SOME TIME NOW!

PROBABLY BUSY SOMEWHERE. HERE'S THE FORMULA!



WHO... WHO ARE YOU?

I CALL MYSELF THE SURGEON, DOCTORS, AND I HAVE COME TO PERFORM AN OPERATION ON YOU!



UNFORTUNATELY, DOCTORS, THE OPERATION WILL NOT SUCCEED. BOTH MY PATIENTS SHALL DIE! FIRST WE ADMINISTER THE ANAESTHETIC!



THE FIRST INCISION!

(COUGH)... YOU... YOU'RE AFTER THE FORMULA, BUT YOU... (COUGH)... WON'T GET IT.



COUGH... UGH!

THE SECOND INCISION!



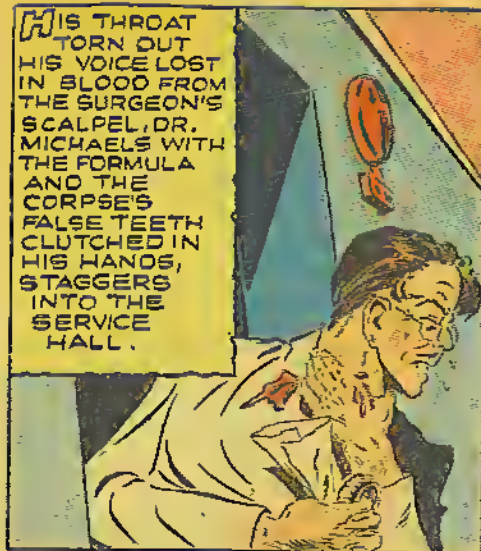
DIE! DIE!



I'LL HAVE THAT FORMULA, I'LL... OOF!



HIS THROAT
TORN OUT
HIS VOICE LOST
IN BLOOD FROM
THE SURGEON'S
SCALPEL, DR.
MICHAELS WITH
THE FORMULA
AND THE
CORPSE'S
FALSE TEETH
CLUTCHED IN
HIS HANDS,
STAGGERS
INTO THE
SERVICE
HALL.



KNOWING HE IS
DOOMED, BUT
REFUSING TO DIE
UNTIL HE HAS A
CHANCE TO SAVE
THE FORMULA,
MICHAELS MAKES
HIS WAY INTO
THE MORGUE.



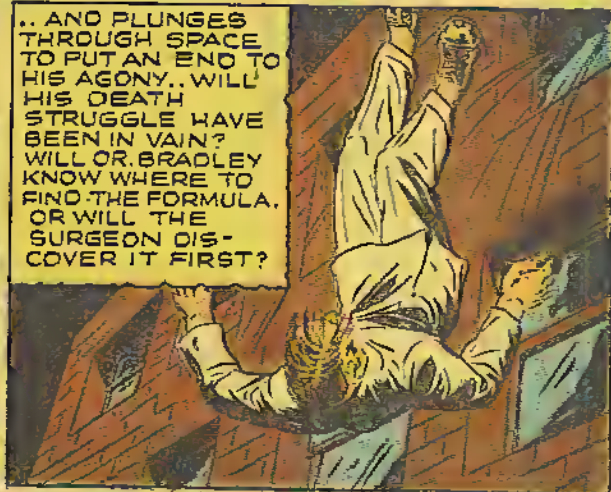
FAILING TO FIND DR. BRADLEY,
HE FORCES THE FORMULA
INTO THE MOUTH OF THE
CORPSE..



UNABLE TO SPEAK.. WITHOUT TIME TO
WRITE A MESSAGE LEST THE SURGEON
HAS FOLLOWED HIM... AND NOT WANTING
THE KILLER TO FIND THE HIDDEN FORMULA,
DR. MICHAELS STAGGERS TO A WINDOW.



.. AND PLUNGES
THROUGH SPACE
TO PUT AN END TO
HIS AGONY.. WILL
HIS DEATH
STRUGGLE HAVE
BEEN IN VAIN?
WILL DR. BRADLEY
KNOW WHERE TO
FIND THE FORMULA,
OR WILL THE
SURGEON DIS-
COVER IT FIRST?



THROUGHOUT THE
HOSPITAL THE
EMERGENCY CALL
RINGS OUT.



IT'S DR.
MICHAELS!

HE'S
BEEN
MURDERED!

IN THE OPERATING ROOM,
THE ALARM IS HEARD.

SOUNDS LIKE
TROUBLE
OUTSIDE!

NICE
OPERATION,
DR. LIONELL.

LET'S GO!
YOU HAVE
ANOTHER
PATIENT
WAITING
FOR YOU!

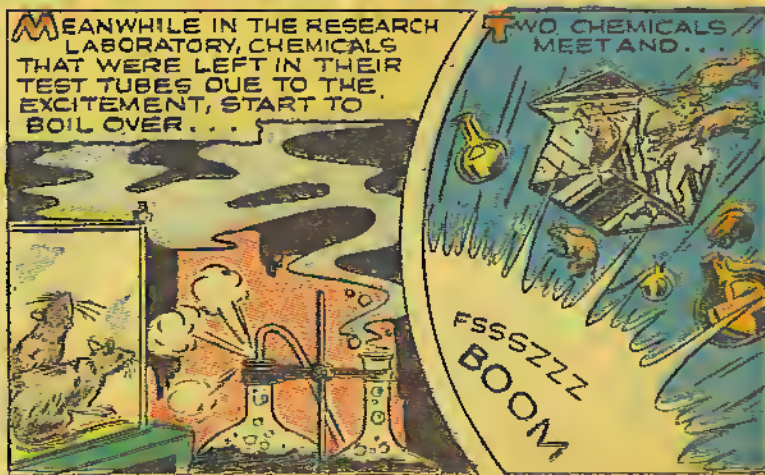
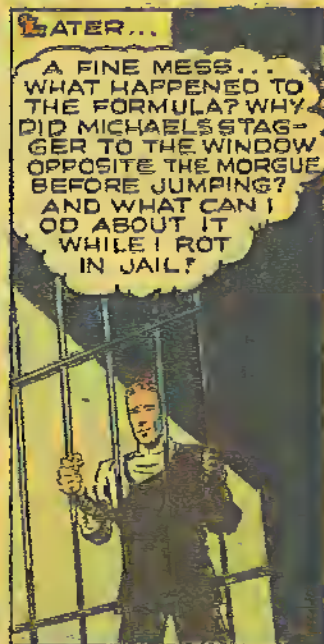
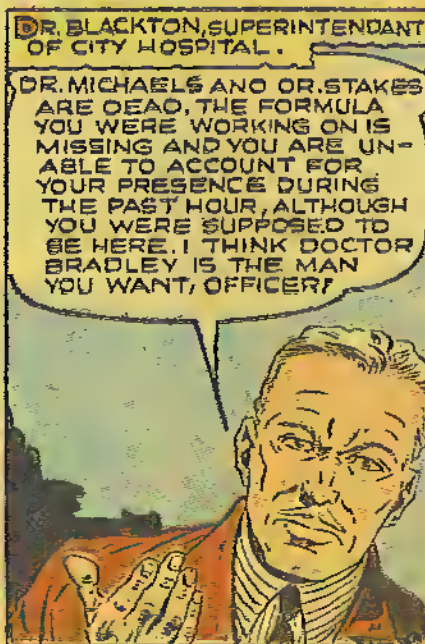


BRADLEY, I CAN'T
THANK YOU ENOUGH.
THIS PLAQUE GIVEN
TO ME IN THE LAST
WAR IS MY MOST
VALUED POSSESSION.
I WANT YOU TO
HAVE IT!

IT REALLY
ISN'T NECESSARY,
DOCTOR.

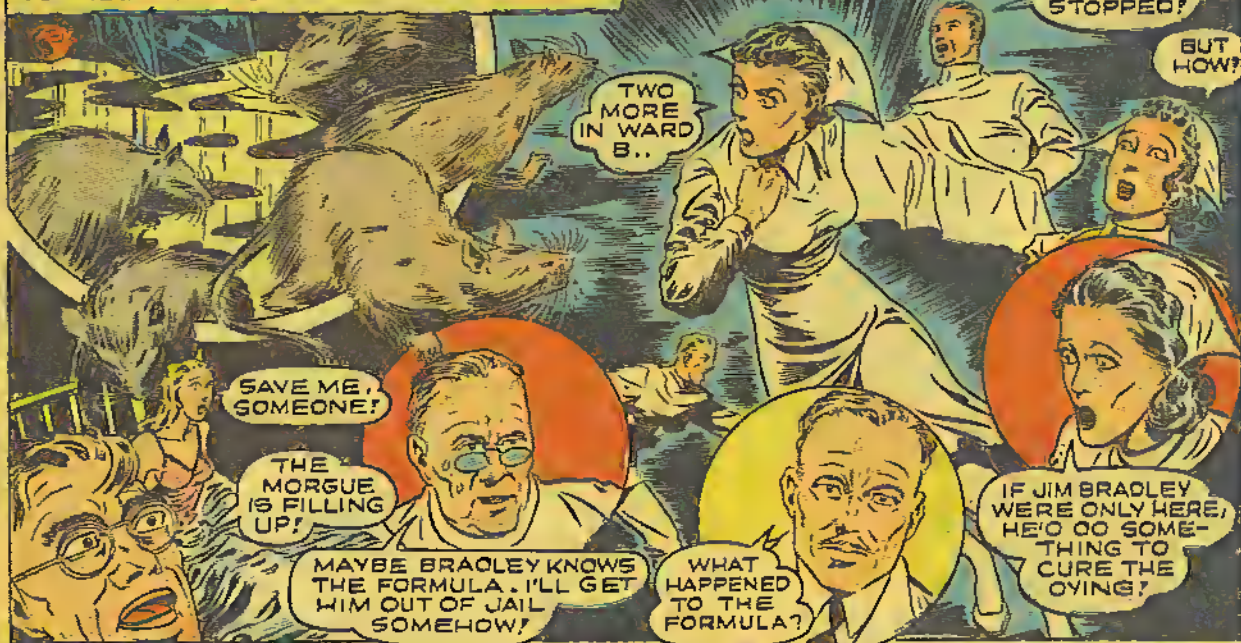
I'M PROUD
OF YOU,
JIM
BRADLEY!





LIBERATED BY THE ACCIDENT, THE RATS, CARRIERS OF THE OREAD BLACK PLAGUE, WALLOW IN THE CONCENTRATED DISEASE GERMS, GATHERING ENOUGH INFECTION TO KILL HUNDREDS OF HUMAN BEINGS.

THROUGH THE HOSPITAL, THE RATS SPREAD AND WITH THEM MOVES THE BLACK PLAGUE.



IT MUST BE STOPPED!

BUT HOW?

TWO MORE IN WARD B..

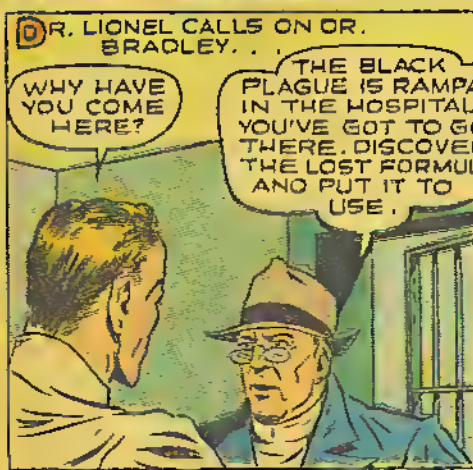
SAVE ME, SOMEONE!

THE MORGUE IS FILLING UP!

MAYBE BRADLEY KNOWS THE FORMULA. I'LL GET HIM OUT OF JAIL SOMEHOW!

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE FORMULA?

IF JIM BRADLEY WERE ONLY HERE, HE'D DO SOMETHING TO CURE THE DYING!



DR. LIONEL CALLS ON DR. BRADLEY.

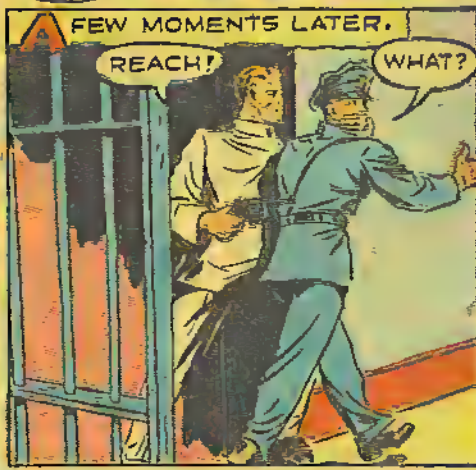
WHY HAVE YOU COME HERE?

THE BLACK PLAGUE IS RAMPANT IN THE HOSPITAL. YOU'VE GOT TO GO THERE. DISCOVER THE LOST FORMULA AND PUT IT TO USE.



BUT HOW?

USE THIS!



A FEW MOMENTS LATER.

REACH!

WHAT?



KEEP HIM COVERED WHILE I GET INTO YOUR HAT AND COAT.

YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH THIS!

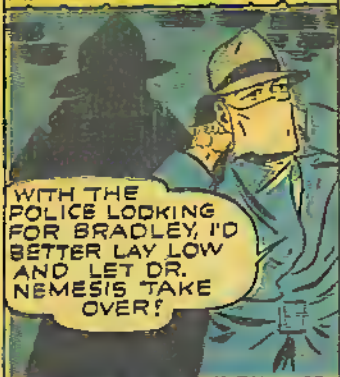
WE DON'T EXPECT TO FOR LONG.



USING THE GUARD AS A SHIELD, BRADLEY MAKES HIS ESCAPE. OUTSIDE THE JAIL IN A DARK ALLEY.

THIS'LL KEEP YOU QUIET FOR A WHILE.

DR. BRADLEY BECOMES DR. NEMESIS, THE CRIME CRUSADER FEARED BY ALL EVIL-DOERS.



WITH THE POLICE LOOKING FOR BRADLEY, I'D BETTER LAY LOW AND LET DR. NEMESIS TAKE OVER!



I'LL SEARCH THROUGH THE LAB FIRST. MAYBE MICHAELS OR STAKES DUCKED THE FORMULA SOMEWHERE TO HIDE IT FROM THE KILLER!



DR. BLACKTON! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

DR. NEMESIS! I'M LOOKING FOR THE FORMULA TO STOP THE BLACK PLAGUE...



WHAT ARE THOSE TEETH YOU'RE HOLDING?

I'M TRYING TO FIGURE OUT THEIR CONNECTION WITH THIS WHOLE SET-UP. DR. MICHAELS HAD THEM CLUTCHED IN HIS HAND!

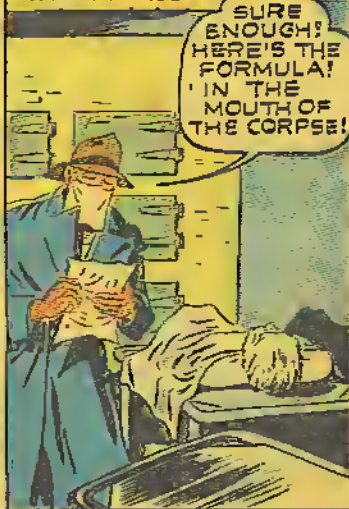


THOSE TEETH BELONGED TO THE CORPSE WE USED... OIO MICHAELS CARRY THEM TO HIS DEATH TO DRAW MY ATTENTION TO THE CORPSE? IT'S WORTH A LOOK!!



DR. NEMESIS SPEEDS TO THE MORGUE.

SURE ENOUGH! HERE'S THE FORMULA! IN THE MOUTH OF THE CORPSE!



MEANWHILE, THE PLAGUE RAGES, SPREADING ITS RAVAGES FROM THE HOSPITAL INTO THE CITY ITSELF.

MORE DEATHS!

WE MUST STOP THIS PLAGUE!

WORKING TO THE POINT OF EXHAUSTION, NURSE STRONG WHEELS ANOTHER VICTIM TO THE MORGUE.

BRADLEY COULDN'T STOP THIS PLAGUE BUT HE'S IN JAIL FOR A CRIME HE DIDN'T COMMIT. I CAN'T FREE HIM WITHOUT EXPOSING DR. LIDNEL! WHAT CAN I DO?



AT THE SAME MOMENT, INSIDE THE MORGUE.

I'LL MIX ENOUGH OF THIS FORMULA TO WIPE OUT THE ENTIRE PLAGUE!

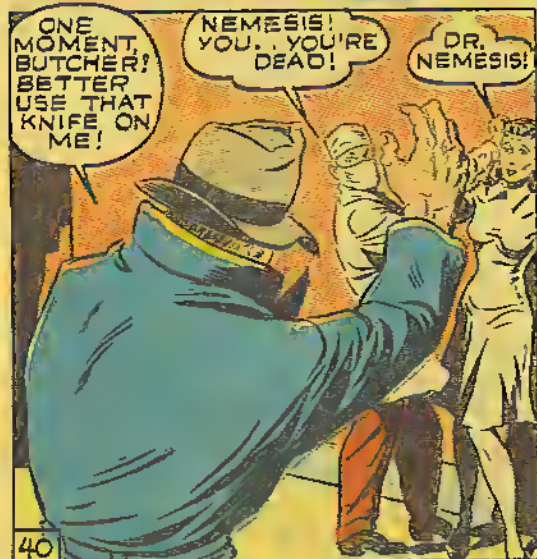
I'LL TAKE THAT FORMULA!

SO, THE MURDERER SHOWS HIMSELF!

THE SURGEON, DR. NEMESIS! THE ONE WHO WILL END YOUR CAREER!



HAS DR. NEMESIS MET HIS END?





ARE YOU READY TO RETURN THE FORMULA?

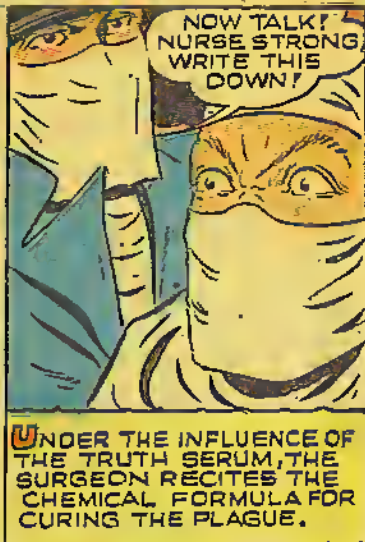


NEVER? I'VE MEMORIZED IT! NOW NO ONE BUT I SHALL EVER KNOW IT!



OKAY...THEN I'LL USE A BIT OF TRUTH SERUM.

NO!
NO!



NOW TALK! NURSE STRONG WRITE THIS DOWN!

UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF THE TRUTH SERUM, THE SURGEON RECITES THE CHEMICAL FORMULA FOR CURING THE PLAGUE.



HERE IT IS, NURSE STRONG...GET IT TO EVERY DOCTOR IN THE CITY...AND CALL THE POLICE.



LATER, THE POLICE ARRIVE TO FIND...

BRADLEY!

WELCOME, OFFICERS. DR. NEMESIS HAS LEFT ME HERE TO EXPLAIN EVERYTHING.



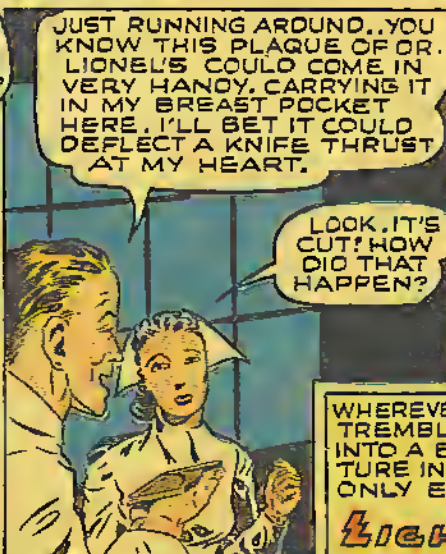
FIRST, MEET THE MURDERER, DR. BLACKTON ALIAS THE SURGEON!

HE TRIED TO KILL ALL THE DOCTORS WHO UNCOVERED THE FORMULA SO HE COULD CLAIM THE DISCOVERY AS HIS OWN. HE COULD HAVE MADE A FORTUNE BY PUTTING IT TO COMMERCIAL USE.



WELL, DOCTOR, I GUESS WE OWE YOU AN APOLOGY AND ONE TO DR. LIONEL TOO. WE WEREN'T EXACTLY PLEASED WITH HIM FOR HELPING YOU TO BREAK JAIL.

DOCTOR BRADLEY, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?



JUST RUNNING AROUND...YOU KNOW THIS PLAGUE OF DR. LIONEL'S COULD COME IN VERY HANDY. CARRYING IT IN MY BREAST POCKET HERE, I'LL BET IT COULD DEFLECT A KNIFE THRUST AT MY HEART.

LOOK, IT'S CUT! HOW DID THAT HAPPEN?



WELL, WILL YOU LOOK AT THAT? I OARNED IF I KNOW!

WHEREVER HE GOES, CRIMINALS TREMBLE! FOLLOW DR. NEMESIS INTO A BLOOD CURDLING ADVENTURE IN WHICH DEATH IS THE ONLY ESCAPE, IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF **LIGHTNING COMICS**

MARVO

AND
TITO

The
MAGICIAN



MURDER
GUTWIRTH

MAGICO!
BEHOLD... A
LION APPEARS!

SAY... IS
THAT A REAL
LION?

PRESTO!
AND THE BEAST
BECOMES A
BEAUTY!

A FAIRY
PRINCESS!
WONDERFUL!

AMONG THE SPECTATORS ARE
CAROLE CORDAY, ACTRESS, AND HER
ESCORT, THE ACTOR, ALLAN LANE.

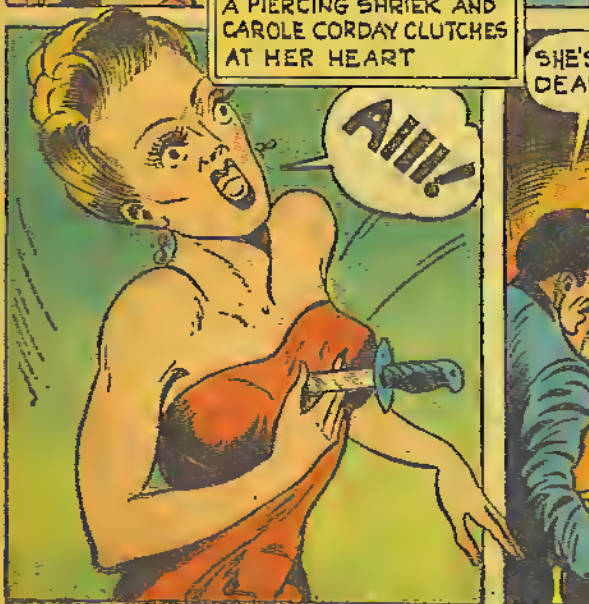
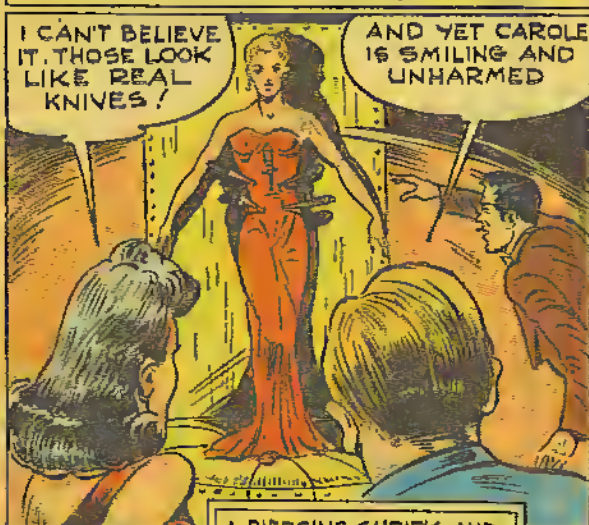
MARVO IS
ASTONISHING,
ISN'T HE, ALLAN?

YES, CAROLE...
WONDER HOW
HE DOES IT?





EVERYONE IS FODDLED BY THE STARTLING-ILLUSION AS MARVO HURLES THE KNIVES..



THE POLICE ARE SUMMONED, AND...



I HOPE YOU GET THE CHAIR FOR THIS, MARVO!



CHEEE... CHEEE... CHREEE!

LATER...

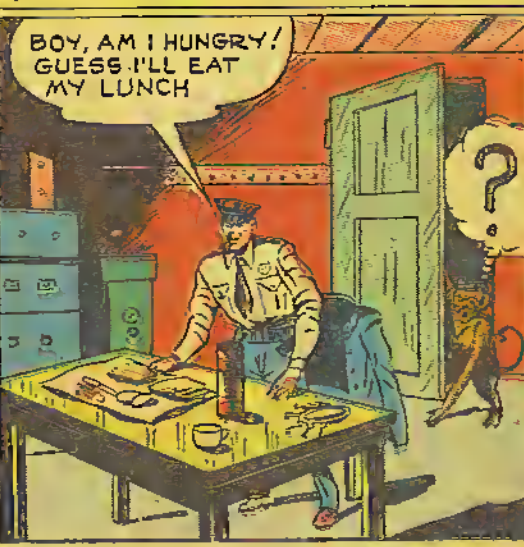
I'M SURE SOME-ONE TOOK



EVERYONE AT THE NIGHT-CLUB THOUGHT THEY SAW ME KILL CAROLE... SO I MUST GET OUT OF HERE AND UNCOVER THE REAL MURDERER MYSELF TO CLEAR MY NAME! GET TO WORK, TITO



TITO SNEAKS OUT OF THE CELL, AND...



SWIFTLY, TITO ELUDES THE JAILER AND PASSES THE KEYS TO MARVO.



MARVO FREES HIMSELF...





COME ON, TITO! WE BETTER GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE HE LOSES HIS TEMPER



MEANWHILE, AT HOME OF THE ACTOR, ALLAN LANE.

YOU'RE SURE SMART, BOSS... KILLING- CAROLE CORDAY AND PINNING THE MURDER ON THAT MAGICIAN



IF IT BECAME KNOWN THAT ALLAN LANE AND ROCCO RAVEL ARE THE SAME PERSON MY ACTING CAREER WOULD BE RUINED



HOW DID CAROLE GET WISE TO YOU, BOSS?



WHEN I BUMPED OFF MABEL LAST WEEK, CAROLE THREATENED TO TELL THE COPS, UNLESS I GAVE MYSELF UP! I AGREED, IF SHE WOULD GO OUT WITH ME FOR THE LAST TIME, LAST NIGHT



SO YOU KILLED HER AT THE NIGHTCLUB WITH MARVO GIVING YOU A PERFECT CHANCE

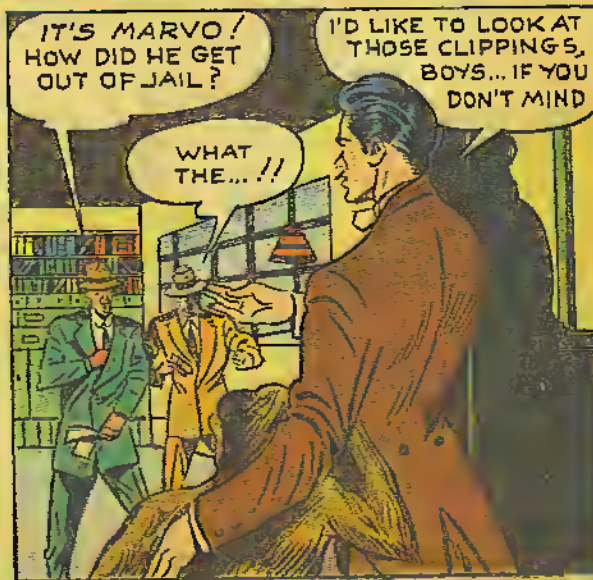


THE TWO THUGS HURRY TO THE NEARBY MANSION OF THE MURDERED ACTRESS, AND...



A MOMENT LATER, MARVO AND TITO ARRIVE ON THE SCENE...

I MAY BE ABLE TO FIND SOME CLUES HERE AS TO MISS CORDAY'S ENEMIES...THAT'S STRANGE...THE DOOR'S OPEN



BUT WE DO MIND.
BETTER SAY YOUR
PRAYERS, MARVO!

THIS CALLS FOR AN
ILLUSION...
**MAGICO DOUBLES
APPEAR!**



MARVO TAKES ADVANTAGE
OF THEIR CONFUSION...

DON'T SHOOT
YOURSELVES, BOYS...
HA-HA!



MARVO CREATES THE ILLUSION THAT EXACT
DOUBLES OF THE TWO THUGS HAVE APPEARED

HEY... AM I LOOKING
IN A MIRROR?

I AIN'T GOT NO
TWIN BROTHER!
WHAT IS THIS?



PRESTO! AND
THIS TAKES
CARE OF
YOU!

AGH!



HMMM!



SO ALLAN LANE AND
ROCCO RAVEL ARE THE
SAME PERSON!... AND
CAROLE KNEW THAT...
REASON ENOUGH FOR
HER MURDER, TITO!

CHREEE!



UNSEEN BY MARVO, ONE OF THE THUGS RECOVERS, AND

BUT CLEVER TITO WARNS HIS MASTER...



SUMMONING FORTH ALL HIS POWERS OF MAGIC, MARVO CREATES AN AMAZING ILLUSION...

SUBITO!

UGHH!
IT'S THE GHOST
OF CAROLE
CORDAY!

MARVO THROWS HIS VOICE IN IMITATION OF THE MURDERED ACTRESS...

I HAVE RETURNED FROM
THE DEAD, ALLAN LANE,
TO HAUNT YOU FOR
KILLING ME

NO, NO!
I'M SORRY I DID IT,
CAROLE! FORGIVE
ME ... PLEASE,
PLEASE!

AS THE
ILLUSION OF
CAROLE CORDAY
DISAPPEARS...

AT THAT MOMENT THE POLICE ARRIVE IN
ANSWER TO THE BUTLER'S CALL ...

I'M SORRY I KILLED
YOU, CAROLE!
PLEASE DON'T
HAUNT ME

SO LANE IS THE
MURDERER! THIS IS
PROOF ENOUGH
FOR US

SO YOU TRICKED ME,
MARVO! WELL, I MIGHT
AS WELL OIE FOR ONE MORE
MURDER! HERE
IT COMES!

GOOD WORK,
TITO!

CHEE,
CHREE!

YOU'RE CLEAR OF ANY CHARGES,
MARVO. SORRY WE HAD YOU
ALL WRONG

IT'S ALL RIGHT,
CAPTAIN. LANE BROUGHT
ON HIS OWN RUIN WHEN
HE LOST HIS NERVE!
THESE PAPERS FROM
THE SAFE ARE
EVIDENCE ENOUGH
TO CONVICT HIM

LATER...

NO MORE TRICKS LIKE
HURLING KNIVES AT
BEAUTIFUL WOMEN!
IT GOT US INTO
PLENTY OF
TROUBLE ALREADY,
EH, TITO?

CHEE ...
CHREEE!

MARVO AND TITO APPEAR IN
ANOTHER THRILLING ADVENTURE
IN LIGHTNING COMICS ...

CAPPIE YOUNG

CAPPIE YOUNG, HIS PAL BRASK COOPER, AND THEIR CHINESE FRIEND, LING PO, RIDE THE DANGEROUS BURMA ROAD TAKING SUPPLIES TO THE AMERICAN VOLUNTEER GROUP HEAD-QUARTERS.

SAY... LING.. RECKON THERE'S MUCH CHANCE OF JAP PLANES SPOTTIN' US?

NOT AT SUNSET.. JAPPIES FEAR SUN GOD... SOON BE DARK!

SAY BRASK.. WHATS ALL THIS GILT PAINT IN BACK FOR?

FOR PLANE WINGS, CAPPIE. IT CUTS DOWN WIND RESISTANCE BETTER THAN REGULAR PAINT!

A JAP FIELD ARTILLERY UNIT THAT HAS INFILTRATED FAR BEHIND THE BATTLE LINE...

A LONE TRUCK, RIDING WITHOUT LIGHTS? TAKE AIM!

FIRE!

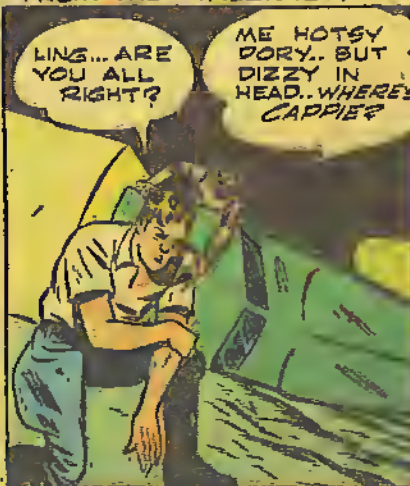
OFF THE ROAD THE TRUCK IS CATAPULTED... AND OVER IT ROLLS!

A MOMENT LATER, TWO TATTERED FIGURES CRAWL FROM THE WRECKAGE!

CAPPIE.. CAPPIE! YOU WILL PLEASE RAISE HANDS!

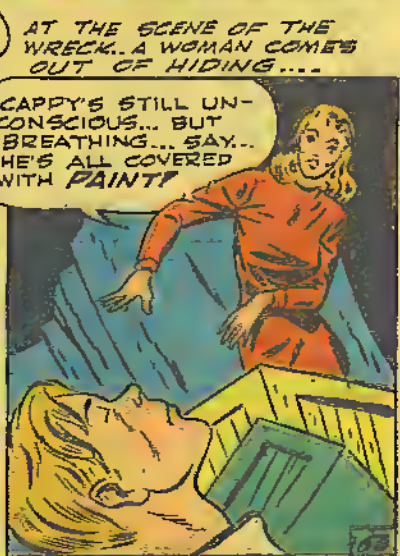
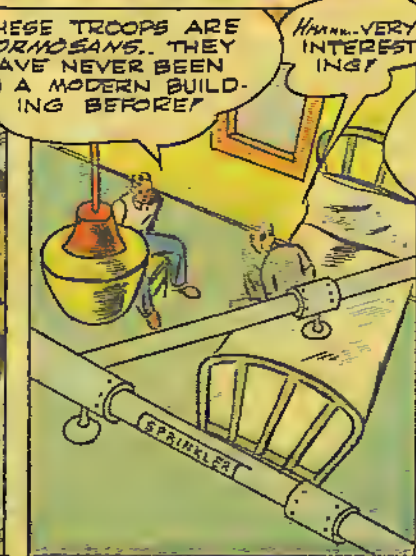
LING... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

ME HOTSY DORY.. BUT DIZZY IN HEAD.. WHERE'S CAPPIE?





THE VULTURES WILL GET HIM OUT! AMERICAN PIG AND CHINESE DOG... YOU ARE PRISONERS OF WAR!



AFTER A BRIEF EXAMINATION...

COME ON HONEY.. YOU'VE GOT TO NOW.. THE JAPES MADE PRISONERS OF YOUR PALS!

BRASK AND LING.. PRISONERS ???

THEY TOOK THEM TO THE AMERICAN HOSPITAL! HA-HA-HA... TAKE A LOOK AT YOURSELF.. YOU'RE SOMETHING OUT OF THIS WORLD!

OUT OF THIS WORLD.. WOW!.. I'M THE SUN-GOD!

WITH THE HELP OF A LITTLE MAKE-UP YOU COULD PASS FOR THE SUN-GOD!

THEN LET'S GET GOIN'!

Meanwhile.. BACK AT THE HOSPITAL...

YOU KNOW WHAT THE SUN-GOD DOES TO YELLOW BOYS WHO HURT SICK PEOPLE IN HOSPITALS DON'T YOU?

JAPPIE BOY GONNA DIE AND SUN-GOD NOT LET IN HEAVEN!

YAH! YAH.. JAPPIE GONNA HAVE TO MAKE HARA-KARI! 3000 P.S.!!

QUIET! NEXT TIME USE BAYONET!

HHMM.. THE LENS OF MY SEARCH-LIGHT?

THE SUN-GOD SPEAKS THROUGH ME! AT DAWN IT WILL RAIN INSIDE THIS ROOM!

A FEW MOMENTS BEFORE THE DAWN!

HERE WE ARE, CAPPIE.. LUCKY I WAS OUTSIDE WHEN THEY OCCUPIED THE PLACE.. THAT'S HOW I ESCAPED!

HERE GOES... WISH ME LUCK!



AWAKE... THE SUN GOD HAS COME!

YII! IS SUN GOD!

IS TRUE.. SUN GOD HAS COME!



BOW! BOW! YOU SINNERS HAVE OFFENDED YOUR GOD



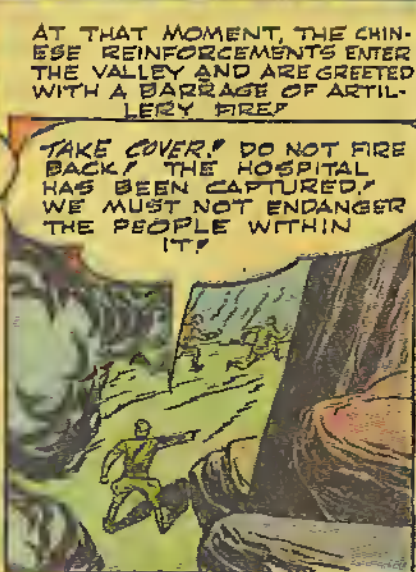
FOOLS! ON YOUR FEET... THIS IS A TRICK!



HE'LL ONLY KEEP QUIET FOR A MOMENT OR SO.. I'D BETTER ADD A FINAL CONVINCER!

THE SUN-GOD HAS

SPOKEN! RAIN SHALL FALL WITHIN THIS ROOM!

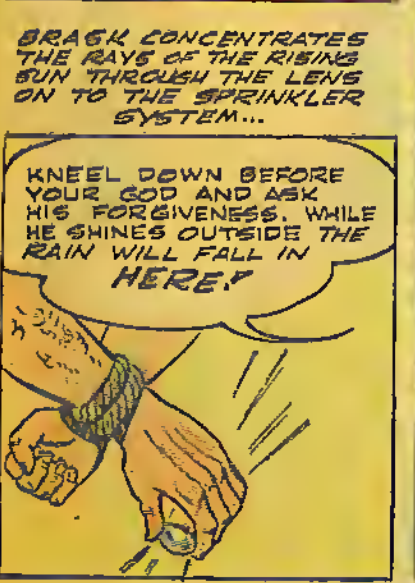


AT THAT MOMENT, THE CHINESE REINFORCEMENTS ENTER THE VALLEY AND ARE GREETED WITH A BARRAGE OF ARTILLERY FIRE!

TAKE COVER! DO NOT FIRE BACK! THE HOSPITAL HAS BEEN CAPTURED! WE MUST NOT ENDANGER THE PEOPLE WITHIN IT!



THEY DO NOT FIRE BACK. WE CAN SLAUGHTER THEM BEFORE THEY COME CLOSE ENOUGH TO ENGAGE HAND TO HAND FIGHTING!



BRACK CONCENTRATES THE RAYS OF THE RISING SUN THROUGH THE LENS ON TO THE SPRINKLER SYSTEM...

KNEEL DOWN BEFORE YOUR GOD AND ASK HIS FORGIVENESS. WHILE HE SHINES OUTSIDE THE RAIN WILL FALL IN HERE!



THEY'VE OPENED FIRE UPSTAIRS! WE'VE GOT TO WORK FAST. THE SPRINKLER SYSTEM WILL SHOWER THE WHOLE PLACE!



UPSTAIRS...THE SPRINKLERS GO INTO ACTION!

IS RAIN IN ROOM!

SUN-GOD ANGRY!

THE CHINESE TROOPS
FEEL THE SUDDEN RELAX-
ATION OF FIRE!

STORM THE
HOSPITAL!



OH..OH.. THE
GILT PAINT IS
WASHING OFF!



IS FAKE?
IS NOT SUN.
GOD.. CHARGE!

..SOLDIERS OF
NIPPON!



MAKE FAST WORK
OF THEM! WE'VE
GOT TO GET UPSTAIRS
BEFORE THE GUNS
GET GOING AGAIN!

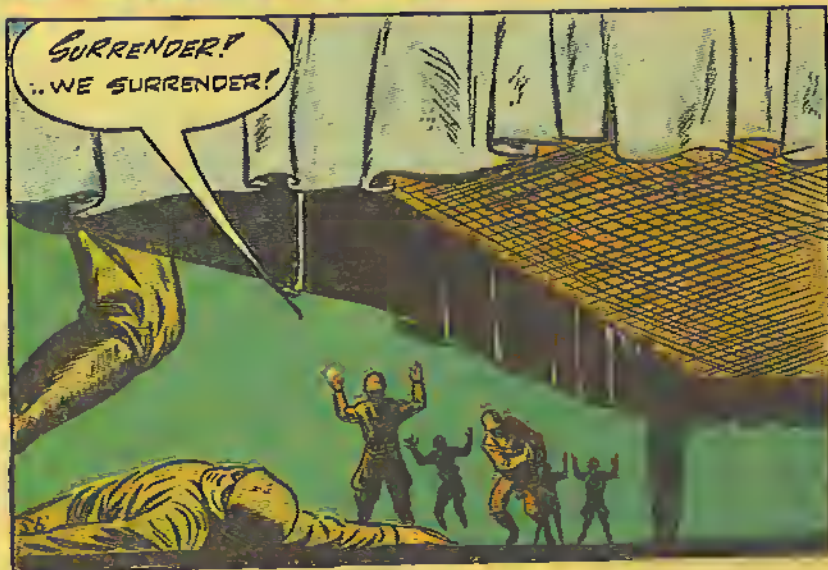


SHOOT
THEM
DOWN!

JUST THEN THE CHINESE
SOLDIERS ARRIVE!



SURRENDER!
..WE SURRENDER!



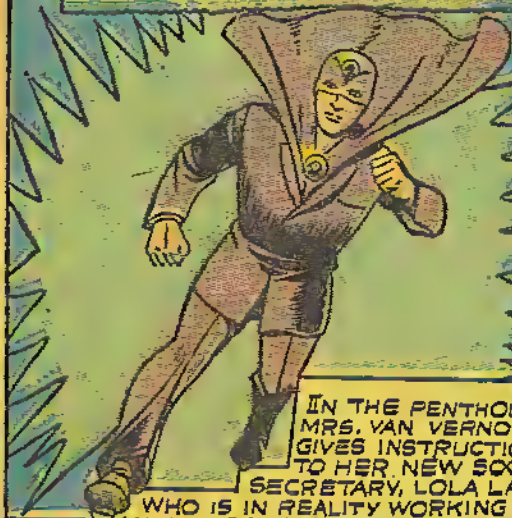
WELL I GUESS
THAT TAKES
CARE OF O'
THEM!



CAPPIE YOUNG AND HIS
PALS RUN INTO REAL
TROUBLE IN THE NEXT ISSUE
OF LIGHTNING COMICS!

"the" Raven

LIKE AN EVIL, SLIMY MONSTER FROM A PREHISTORIC SWAMP, THE LIZARD CLIMBS REPTILE-LIKE UP THE SHEER SIDE OF A TOWERING WALL TOWARD A PENTHOUSE. WHAT IS THIS LIZARD, MAN OR THING? AND WHO CAN STOP ITS UNHOLY MURDEROUS RAMPAGES?



IN THE PENTHOUSE MRS. VAN VERNON GIVES INSTRUCTIONS TO HER NEW SOCIAL SECRETARY, LOLA LASH,

WHO IS IN REALITY WORKING AS AN UNDERCOVER OPERATIVE FOR THE RAVEN.

AND AS PART OF YOUR DUTIES YOU WILL SEE THAT THE RENT MONIES ARE CHANGED TO \$1,000 BILLS AND PLACED IN THE SAFE IN MY OFFICE AT THE BEEKMAN BUILDING!



I WILL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING, MRS. VAN VERNON. AND THE KEY FOR THE SAFE?

THIS IS IT, I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU WHEN YOU NEED IT. WOULD YOU GET ME A SLEEPING TABLET FROM THE MEDICINE CABINET?

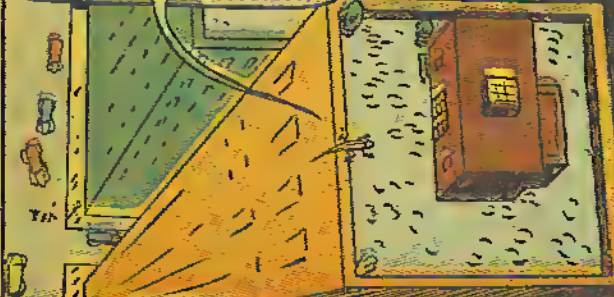


CERTAINLY!

RENT MONIES! WHO DOES SHE THINK SHE'S FOOLING! THE RAVEN TOLD ME SHE WAS RUNNING A JEWELRY FENCE!



SOON! SOON, WE SHALL HAVE WHAT WE SEEK!



AH, MY PRETTY! YOU'D LIKE TO TASTE OF MY FLESH, WOULDN'T YOU? BUT NOT NOW, I HAVE A SOFTER, MORE TENDER VICTIM FOR YOU!

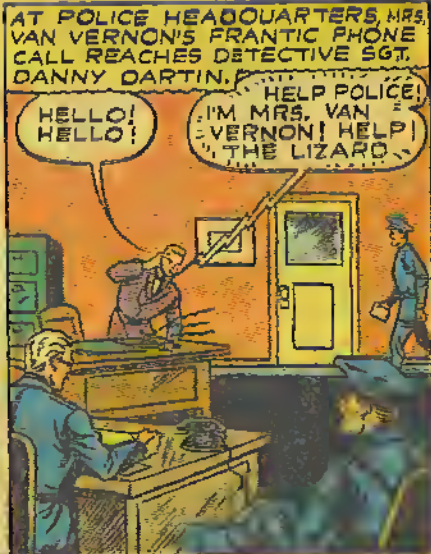




TOO TERRIFIED TO SHAKE OFF THE GILA MONSTER, MRS. VAN VERNON FALLS VICTIM TO ITS POISONOUS FANGS. .



POLICE! POLICE!
HELP, POLICE! THE
LIZARD



VAN VERNONS! THAT'S
WHERE I PLANTEO LOLA!

COME ON BOYS! INTO THE
SQUAD CARS! SOUNDS
LIKE A MURDER AT VAN
VERNON'S!



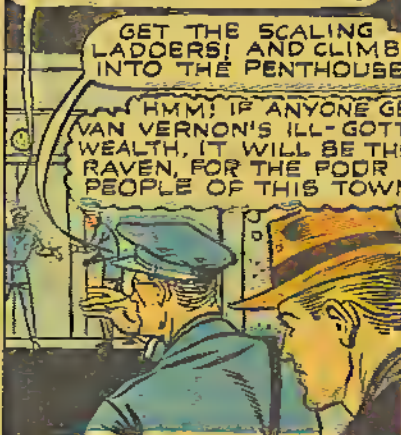
REALIZING SHE CAN BE OF
NO ASSISTANCE, LOLA
QUIETLY CLOSES THE
DOOR, HOPING THAT SHE
WILL REMAIN UNSEEN. . .



HERE WE ARE BOYS! STEP ON IT! LET'S GET UP-STAIRS!



HEY, CHIEF! WE CAN'T GET UP! THERE'S NO STAIRS AND THIS PRIVATE ELEVATOR AIN'T WORKING!



GET THE SCALING LADDERS! AND CLIMB INTO THE PENTHOUSE!

HMM! IF ANYONE GETS VAN VERNON'S ILL-GOTTEN WEALTH, IT WILL BE THE RAVEN, FOR THE POOR PEOPLE OF THIS TOWN!

DUCKING INTO THE DOORWAY, DANNY DARTIN BECOMES THE RAVEN.



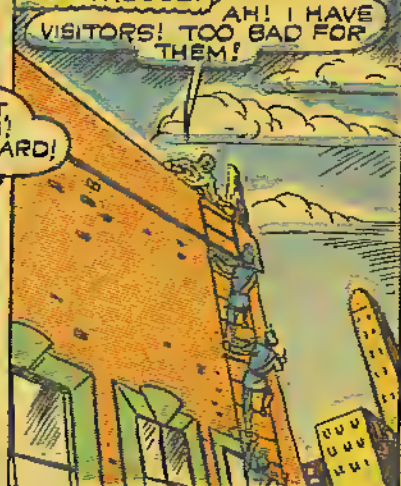
IF I STAY WITH THE CHIEF I WON'T GET UP THERE BEFORE THE REST DO!

HELLO MIKE! GET THE CAR AND MEET ME AT M AND PINE, I MAY NEED YOU. THE LIZARD'S ON THE RAM-PAGE!



RIGHT, BOSS! THE LIZARD! GEE!

MEANWHILE, UP IN THE PENTHOUSE.



AH! I HAVE VISITORS! TOO BAD FOR THEM!

FAREWELL, MY FRIENDS!

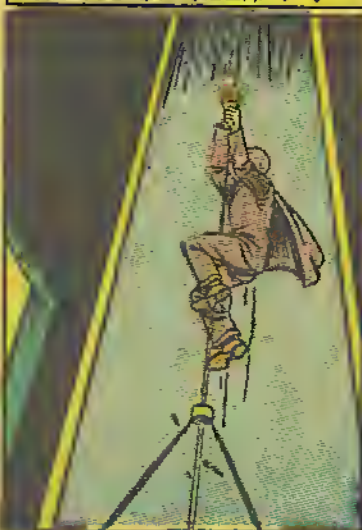


MEANWHILE, THE RAVEN PREPARES TO ENTER THE PENTHOUSE.

IF ANYTHING HAS HAPPENED TO LOLA, I'LL...



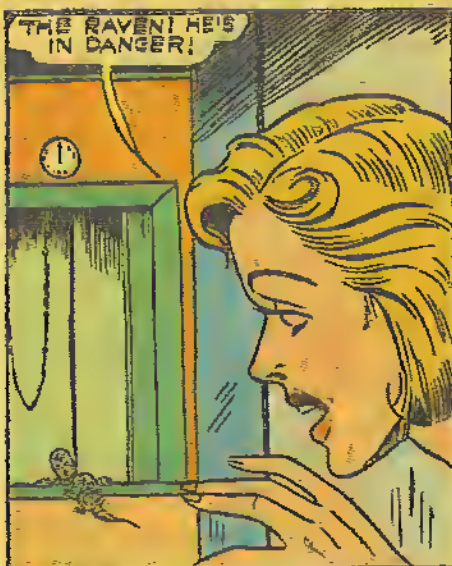
HANO OVER HANO, EVERY MUSCLE STRAINED AT THE EFFORT, THE RAVEN CLIMBS TO PERILOUS HEIGHTS AS HE GOES TO THE AIO OF LOLA.



STARING BALEFULLY AT THE RAVEN, ARE THE BEAOY EYES OF THE GILA MONSTER, MOST DEADLY OF ALL REPTILES.



A GILA MONSTER! ITS BITE MEANS INSTANT DEATH!



THE RAVEN! HE'S IN DANGER!



I'VE GOT TO SAVE HIM. I MUST!

A GIRL! WHERE DID SHE COME FROM?



FIRST I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU TWO! THEN I'LL HAVE TIME TO ATTEND TO HER!

WITH THE GILA MONSTER'S FANGS MERE INCHES FROM THE RAVEN'S HAND, LOLA SMASHES DOWN ON IT, GRINDING OUT ITS POISONOUS LIFE.

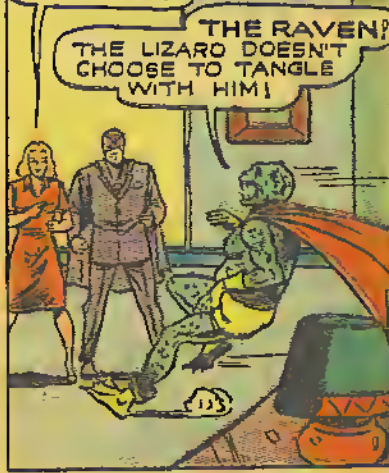


WELL, LOLA, I GUESS I OWE YOU MY LIFE THIS TIME!

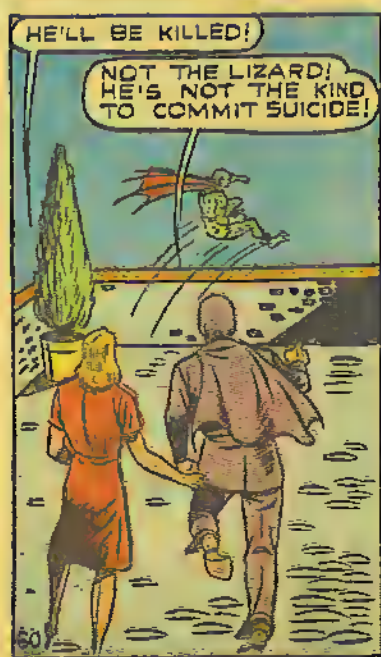


NOT QUITE. IF YOU DIDN'T KNOW I WAS IN A SPOT UP HERE, YOU WOULDN'T HAVE COME BARGING UP THE WAY YOU DID. THAT SORT OF MAKES US EVEN!

THERE HE IS RAVEN! THAT'S THE KILLER!



THE RAVEN! THE LIZARD DOESN'T CHOOSE TO TANGLE WITH HIM!



HE'LL BE KILLED!

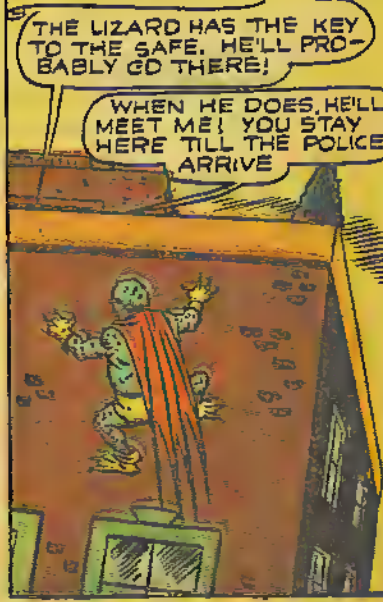
NOT THE LIZARD! HE'S NOT THE KIND TO COMMIT SUICIDE!

WELL, WHAT COOKS HONEY? WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?



HE CAME FOR VAN VERNON'S MONEY BUT IT ISN'T HERE. IT'S IN HER OFFICE IN THE BEEKMAN BUILDING!

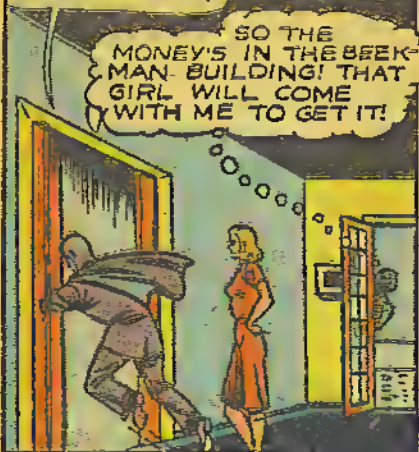
GIRLING BACK, THE LIZARD OVERHEARS....



THE LIZARD HAS THE KEY TO THE SAFE. HE'LL PROBABLY GO THERE!

WHEN HE DOES, HE'LL MEET ME! YOU STAY HERE TILL THE POLICE ARRIVE

SO LONG HONEY! TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF!



SO THE MONEY'S IN THE BEEKMAN-BUILDING! THAT GIRL WILL COME WITH ME TO GET IT!

IF I KNOW MY CRIMINALS, HE'LL HEAD FOR THAT MONEY AND HE'LL BRING THE KEY! NICE OF HIM TO GO TO ALL THAT TROUBLE TO HELP ME GET IT!



THE LIZARD! YOU'VE COME BACK!



YESSS! AND I OVERHEARD YOUR CONVERSATION! NOW YOU WILL ACCOMPANY ME TO THE BEEKMAN BUILDING!

NO! NO! UGH!

I'VE NO TIME FOR ARGUMENTS!



THROUGH THE AIR THE LIZARD GOES! WHERE NO MAN DARES TO FOLLOW!



LIKE THE REPTILE WHOSE NAME HE HAS TAKEN, THE LIZARD SPRINGS THROUGH THE AIR TO LAND, CLINGING TO THE WALL OF A BUILDING ACROSS THE STREET.



THERE IT IS, THE BEEKMAN BUILDING! SOON THE FORTUNE THAT WAITS IN IT, SHALL BE MINE!

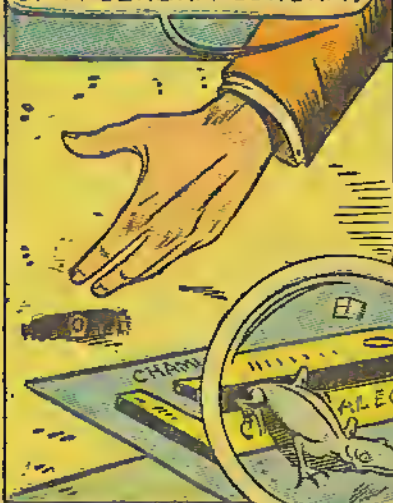


MEANWHILE, MIKE FOLLOWS OUT THE RAVEN'S ORDERS.

I SURE HOPE HE SHOWS UP SOON. I DON'T FANCY SITTING AROUND HERE DOING NOTHING WHILE THE LIZARD IS IN TOWN!



HMM! WHO AM I TO PASS UP A CORONA-CORONA?



AN INQUISITIVE CHAMELEON DECIDES TO PAY MIKE A VISIT.

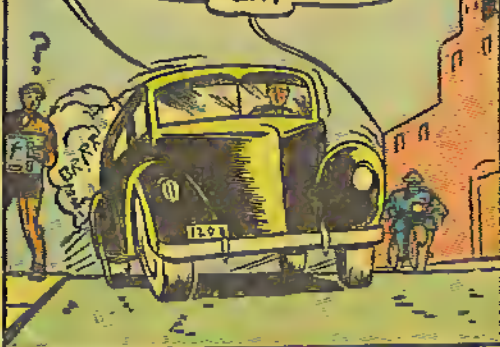


THE LIZARD! THE GREEN LIZARD! YEOW!

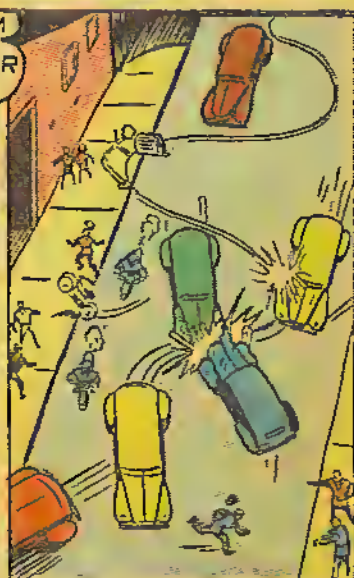


THE LIZARD! IT'S COME TO GET ME!

ORUNKEN DRIVER, EH?



YEOW! GET AWAY FROM ME! IT'S THE LIZARD! YE GODS! IT'S ANOTHER ONE, A RED LIZARD!



MEANWHILE, ! .

YOU WERE EXPECTING ME, WEREN'T YOU? BUT NOT WITH THE GIRL! TAKE THIS KEY AND OPEN THE SAFE OR MY PET GETS A TASTE OF HER THROAT!



THIS IS WHAT YOU WANTED! NOW LET THE GIRL GO!

NOT YET, MY FRIEND, NOT YET!



MEANWHILE, MIKE IS HAVING A VERY DISTRESSING TIME. MY GOD! THERE MUST BE A MILLION OF THEM! NOW IT'S A GLEN PLAID LIZARD! I'M GOING NUTS!



MIKE CRASHES INTO THE BEEK-MAN BUILDING.



UPSTAIRS, UNNERVED BY THE ARRIVAL OF ALL THE POLICE CARS, THE LIZARO PEERS OUT THE WINDOW TO SEE WHAT IS HAPPENING BELOW.

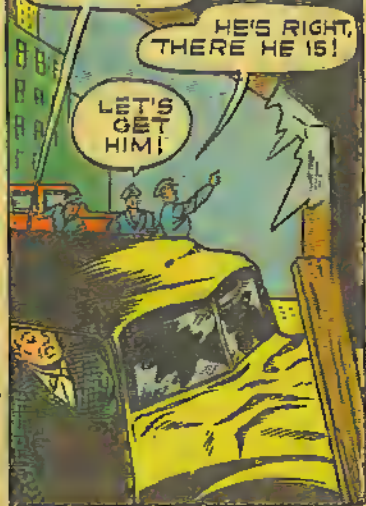
LOOKS LIKE THE JIG IS UP, SNAKE!



THE LIZARD! A YELLOW ONE! UGH!

HE'S RIGHT, THERE HE IS!

LET'S GET HIM!



THE POLICE WILL NEVER GET THE LIZARD!

YOU HAVEN'T ESCAPED YET!



RAVEN! SO YOU'RE IN WITH THE LIZARD!

NOT, CHIEF. BUT THERE'S NO TIME TO TELL YOU ABOUT IT NOW! SO LONG!



COME BACK HERE, YOU! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!

HAVE YOU GOT A WARRANT, CHIEF?



HE CAN'T FOLLOW ME! NO MAN CAN FOLLOW WHERE THE LIZARD GOES!

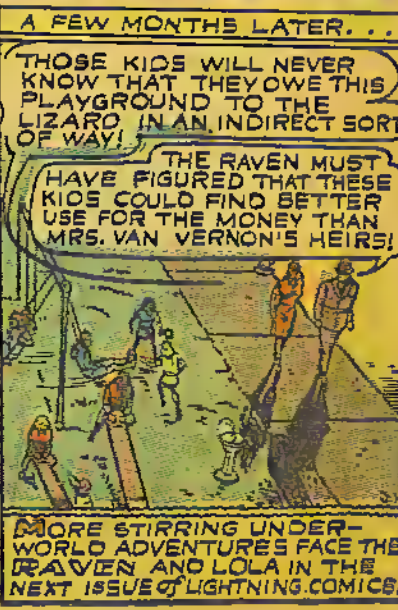
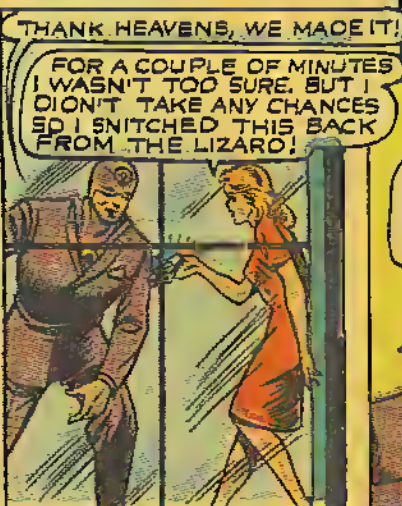
MAYBE OTHER MEN CAN'T! BUT THE RAVEN CAN!



IN HIS HASTE TO ESCAPE, THE LIZARD HAD FORGOTTEN TO SECURELY FASTEN HIS PET'S POUCH. THE GILA MONSTER HEADS FOR THE NEAREST THROAT.

NOOOOOO!!





MORE STIRRING UNDER-WORLD ADVENTURES FACE THE RAVEN AND LOLA IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF LIGHTNING COMICS.



AVIATION UTILITY



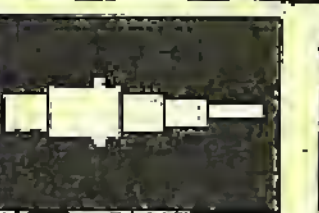
AVIATION METALMITH



AVIATION ENSIGN



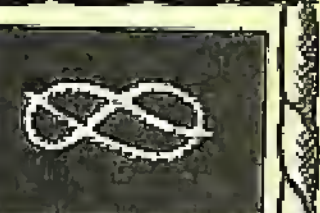
BLIMP AIRSHIP SERVICE



GUN CAPTAIN



SEAMANSHIP SERVICE



EN SIGN



PAINTER



ELECTRICIAN'S MATE



PAINTER'S CABIN WIPER'S MATE



COOK



BUGLER



PHOTOGRAPHER



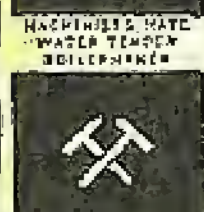
BOWSERMAN



E



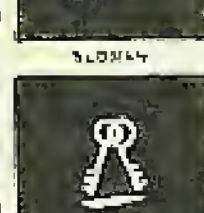
MACHINE GUNNER'S MATE



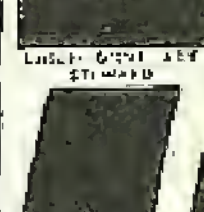
SHIP'S ENGINEER



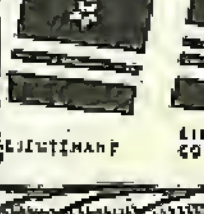
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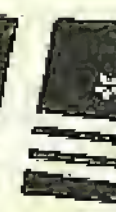
LIEUTENANT'S MATE



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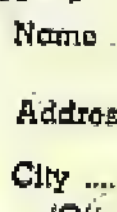
LIEUTENANT'S MATE



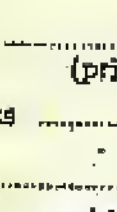
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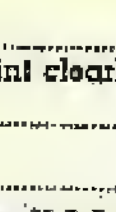
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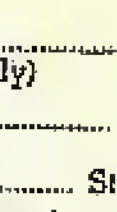
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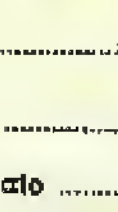
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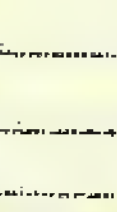
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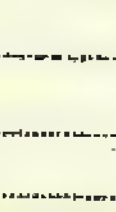
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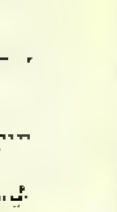
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Special to the readers of **LIGHTNING COMICS**

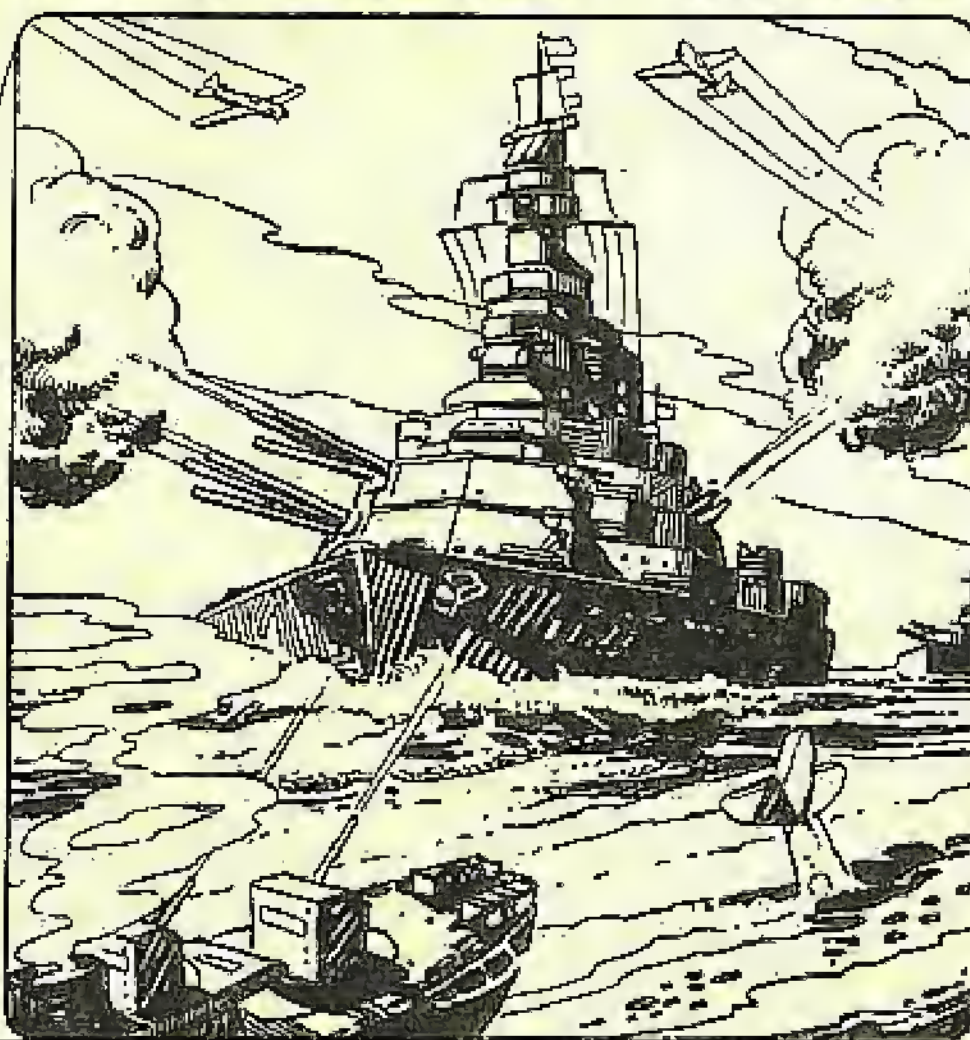
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